

power decides upon the question whether the United States Congress has exceeded its authority or not. So that if there was any illegal exercise of power in that country there is a mode of settling it which is peculiar to the country itself, and which is the best system, after all, of deciding these matters.

My hon. friend quoted Mr. Bryce. He quoted the unfavourable things which Mr. Bryce said of the United States Senate, but Mr. Bryce, in his 'American Commonwealth,' vol. I., page 114, one of the most eminent of modern Englishmen, also said:—

The Senate has succeeded in making itself eminent and respected. It has drawn the best talent of the nation, so far as that talent flows to politics, into its body; has established an intellectual supremacy, has furnished a vantage ground from which men of ability may speak with authority to their fellow-citizens.

There is no doubt whatever that the United States Senate is one of the strongest legislative bodies in the world; but the democratic spirit is making such progress in the neighbouring republic that thirty-one states have united in an application to Congress to allow senators to be elected by the popular vote. Thirty-one states are more than the requisite two-thirds required to secure a vote upon a constitutional amendment to that effect. So that, notwithstanding the fact that the Senate is elected by the state legislatures there is still a strong tendency towards securing their election by popular vote. The hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce admitted that there was a necessity for reform in the Canadian Senate. Indeed, in discussing the question, his speech took rather the direction of a warning. He suggested to us that we had better set our house in order; that there was something coming which would make it necessary for us to take steps of some kind, and he proposed a scheme of reform for the Senate to which I shall make a short reference. The hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce suggested a change in the composition of the Senate. He suggested that the number of members should be reduced, but that is not important, and he suggested that a certain number of them should be elected by the local legislatures and a certain number appointed by the government. He made a very strong point in favour of minority re-

presentation. As regards minority representation, I feel bound to say that I do not look with any favour upon it at all. The hon. member from Marshfield took it up and was very desirous that such a system should prevail. The question of minority representation has long been before the people of England. Mr. Hare, a great many years ago, developed a system on paper of minority representation; then a Mr. Marshall, I think, followed it up by some practical suggestions, by which if three vacancies were to be filled, two could be elected by the majority and one by the minority. And if I remember right the parliament of France, some years ago, adopted a system by which representatives were elected over a large area of country, and by a judicious system of voting, some minority representatives could be chosen; but that system is no longer in practice in France. If I remember right, in Ontario at one time, in the city of Toronto, there was a system of electing a minority representative. The opposition had the right, or privilege, or power, if they choose to exercise it, to elect one, but that system seems to have fallen into disuse, because it was ineffective and did not secure to the minority what was desired. My hon. friend beside me (Hon. Mr. Legris) also favoured representation of minorities, but it seems to me it is not an important thing. If the people send to parliament a certain number of men, no matter how large or how small the number of representatives of the minority is their influence would be just as great as if they formed a larger proportion of the representatives. The only advantage I can see in the minority being strong is, that the government has less difficulty in carrying out the practical work of politics in restraining its followers. It forms a check, but it is not of sufficient importance or value to introduce it here. Then the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce proposed that a certain number of senators should be chosen from privy councillors, judges, lieutenant governors and other persons. That also was the idea of John Stuart Mill. It is not original, but the application of it is to the conditions here. Mr. Mill made the suggestion, looking at the gradual decline of influence of the House of Lords in England, and favouring a second Chamber to a cer-