

and the observations of the member for Cardwell the way was clear for the adoption of the course indicated by those gentlemen. In his opinion it would be well for the member for Bothwell to submit the details of his proposed plan to the House and the country, and then allow the matter to stand for further consideration. He fully agreed with the remarks that had been made in reference to the wisdom of proceeding slowly in matters involving constitutional changes, and, therefore, he approved of allowing the matter to stand over this session.

Hon. Mr. MITCHELL said that it was with great surprise and regret that he found the Government had allowed a matter involving so important a change in the constitution of our country to go to a division without a single word from them in reference to their own position. He held that it was the duty of the Government to lead the House on a matter of so great importance. He believed that upon more mature consideration the decision of the House would not be sustained, and he therefore approved of the suggestion that the resolution be laid upon the table for future consideration. No case had been made out against the present mode of constituting the Senate, and he sincerely hoped that the Government would pause before they took any action in this matter. Perhaps the time might come when the Constitution of the Senate might be required to be changed, but that would not be while we occupied our present position in relation to the British Empire. But there was no necessity for a change now. There had been no agitation in the country for it, and there had been no dead-lock between the two Houses which might supply a reason for such a change. He deeply regretted the vote which had been passed, as it would create an impression that our Constitution at this early period needed to be changed, and thereby would cast a reflection upon those who framed it. He regretted also that harsh expressions had been used in reference to the present Senate in the course of the debate. From his own personal knowledge, he could bear testimony to the ability, the independence and the sincerity with which the members of that body fulfilled their important functions.

Hon. Mr. HUNTINGTON said it was a mistake to suppose that the resolution

before the House was an attack upon the Senate. It had been stated on high authority that responsible government was on its trial throughout the empire, and the Senate, theoretically, might well be upon its trial without Senators being attacked. They did not require the compliments of the hon. member for Northumberland, as they were respected in their high position by all the members of this House. All that was done to-night was to record the opinion which had been recorded in old Canada over and over again that the nominative principle of constituting the Senate was not the true principle. The Senate was a very distinguished body, but if there was an element of weakness in the Constitution it was not fair to assume that the people's representatives who ventured to discuss it were treating disrespectfully the members of the Senate.

Mr. DYMOND said he did not rise to continue the discussion, but merely to say a few words in regard to an allusion that had been made to him in the early part of the debate by the hon. member for West Toronto, who had unintentionally placed an opinion in his (Mr. DYMOND's) mouth which he had not expressed. It was quite true that when this subject came up for discussion a year ago he had in a few hurried remarks alluded in somewhat strong language of condemnation to the system of an Upper Chamber, and in still stronger language to the experience we had of an Upper Chamber since Confederation. He did not, however, express the opinion then that the Upper Chamber should be abolished. He did not know to what his argument pointed, but he was careful to avoid coming to that conclusion. At the same time he would state frankly that theoretically he disbelieved in the necessity for a second Chamber. He would be glad to see the second Chamber abolished, and he did not believe that the country would suffer if that were done. He was equally certain, however, on the other hand, that neither the public opinion of the whole Dominion nor the feeling of security in the several Provinces, especially in the smaller Provinces, would be consulted by any act of that kind; and he had therefore, desiring to influence practical rather than theoretical legislation, recorded his vote for the resolution.

*Hon. Mr. Blake.*