

Rebellion in Lower Canada, rebellions arising out of the afflictions of the people under what was known as the Family Compact, ruling through Downing Street. The Legislative Council was to be composed of not less than twenty members, to be appointed by the Crown. That lasted until 1854—for thirteen years. By that time the agitation for a change had grown so strong that it was found necessary to have a Legislative Council elective instead of appointive. The Bill to bring this change into effect was carried through the Legislature by a Government led by one of the bluest of all the blue-blooded Tories whom Canada has ever known, Sir Allan McNab, who was supported by John A. Macdonald, then Attorney General for Canada West, and by George E. Cartier, then Attorney General for Canada East. That Conservative Government—and I think the last really Conservative Government that ever existed in Canada, because after that they called themselves Liberal-Conservatives,—passed this law providing for the election of a Legislative Council for the united Canadas to be composed of forty-eight men, twenty-four from Lower Canada and twenty-four from Upper Canada, to be elected in districts formed by the Government in power. We have that precedent to guide us in any arrangement we may make in the future. It may be asked: Why, after having an elective upper chamber from 1856 to 1867, was a change made in 1867? In 1856 George Brown, representing the county of Lambton, in the Legislature of Canada, was in favour of an appointed legislative council, and expressed himself so very strongly. John A. Macdonald was in favour of an elective legislative council, and that was the system which was adopted. But when Confederation came about a change had come over the feeling of the people, apparently. Confederation was brought about mainly by reason of the determination on the part of the people of Upper Canada to have representation by population. That was a scheme most dear to the heart of George Brown. He felt that Upper Canada at that time, having a large population over and above Lower Canada, and Upper Canada being very much wealthier than Lower Canada, it was not fair to the people of Upper Canada that they should be represented in the legislative council by only the same number of representatives as Lower Canada. Consequently, he made an effort to secure representation by population. That was the basis of the Confedera-

[Mr. German.]

tion scheme. Mr. Brown, at that time, in speaking of an elective upper chamber, said:

Our Lower Canada friends have agreed to give us representation by population in the Lower House on the express condition that they shall have equality in the Upper House. On no other condition could we have advanced a step and for my part I am quite willing that they should have it.

That appeared to be the crux of the whole situation at that time. Mr. Brown and his followers were endeavouring to get representation by population in the Lower House, the elective chamber. In the Upper House the statesmen of Lower Canada thought that they should have an equal voice with Upper Canada, and that in order to have that equal voice the senators, as they were to be called thereafter, should be appointed and not elected. Consequently, it was decided at that time to appoint the senators, and we have appointed them since then. I feel confident the whole sentiment of the country is behind the proposition that the Senate as constituted at that time has not worked out to the advantage of the country or as the founders of Confederation expected it would. In every other respect the Confederation of the British North American colonies has been a magnificent success. From the four small colonies which were federated at that time there has grown up a Dominion which extends from the Atlantic to the Pacific ocean. Population is increasing, wealth is increasing, the differences in language and in religion are being adjusted amicably and to-day we find this great Dominion of Canada, sprung from the Confederation which was brought about by these men, standing behind the British Empire in the greatest war the world has ever seen. We have seen our Canadian boys going from here and fighting the battles of the Empire and I am proud to say that the record of the Canadians in carrying Vimy compares well with the record of the glorious deeds on the historic battlefields of the world. We have a great and glorious country. It was only a few years ago that Canadians, going abroad, and being asked where they were from generally stated that they were from America. Canada was not known, but from now on it will be the pride and glory of every one going abroad from Canada to be known as a Canadian and as a fellow-citizen of men who have carried Britain's flag to victory on these hard fought battlefields.

Now, as I say, we have a precedent for an elective Senate. We have the Liberals, in 1893, deciding in favour, not of an elec-