

further discussion. So in point of fact, of this immense number of bills carefully gone through and amended in this house, every one has been accepted by the lower house without objection except one, and in that case, after consideration, and hearing the reasons which had prompted this house to make the amendment, that one was accepted also, without further objection. We performed another branch of our duties last year—it was not particularly agreeable to me, but on the whole I respected the Senate for doing what the majority considered to be its duty on that occasion, and I am bound to believe that the majority was right. A Government bill passed by the House of Commons, which the majority of this House disapproved of, was brought before the Senate and was unceremoniously rejected. I did my best to carry it through: I thought it ought to pass: I thought we were pledged to it in many ways. I gave various reasons why it ought to have passed the House, and I think, abstractedly speaking, it ought to have passed the House. But the majority of the Senate were opposed to it; and notwithstanding their gratitude to the gentlemen who appointed them, they rejected the bill after a comparatively short discussion.

Hon. Mr. Dickey—The bill has never come back.

#### THE SENATE HAS DONE ITS DUTY.

Hon. Mr. Abbott—No. What after all does this discussion result in, now that we have got through with it. We have had offered to us various modes of electing this House, but we have not had suggested to us any reason whatever that I can see for changing our constitution. The only semblance of a reason offered—it was a good reason, too, if it had been well founded—was that which the hon. gentlemen from Acadie offered, that we were not doing what was expected of us, no properly carrying out the objects of our constitution. I think I have shown, and my hon. friend from Halifax has shown, what those objects really are. I think I have shown, and other members of the Senate have shown, that we have really performed our duties with regard to those objects; that we are daily performing them, and that every day we are seeking to take to ourselves a larger amount of work. So far from shirking work and desiring to live in indolence and luxurious ease, drawing our pay for nothing, we are seeking for all the work we can legitimately do within the sphere of our duties. What we have had before us we have done and done well. It is

not disputed—no hon. gentleman who has spoken has disputed—that we have done the work well. Some hon. members suggested that we ought to throw out more bills in order to show our independence. I do not agree with that idea at all. If anyone can point to a bill, which in the opinion of the majority ought to have been thrown out, and we did not do it, I am ready to cry peccavi, and I would be ready to say that we were guilty, if such a circumstance occurred; but it has not been suggested by those who have proposed that we should throw out bills to show our independence, that we have omitted to reject any bill that in the opinion of the majority of the Senate ought to have been rejected. We have rejected such bills, whoever introduced them or brought them before us, as we thought should not pass; we have amended those that we thought should be amended; we have improved those that we thought needed improvement. We have not delayed in the performance of those duties or the exercise of our functions; we have been equal to the work before us—we have not allowed it to get into arrears. We have been here ready to perform all the duties entrusted to us, and it is admitted on all hands that we do those duties well. What more can be required of us than that? If we do not happen to attract public attention much, what matters it? I say to hon. gentlemen let us do our work—let us guard the legislation of the country, let us revise it, let us correct it, let us amend it, let us reject it, in the interest of the country, as we are required to do. Let us take care that no temporary fit of prejudice or passion, injurious to our country or disadvantageous to our interests is allowed to force a measure through this Parliament without giving to the people a further opportunity for considering it. That is one of our most important functions, not to persist forever in resisting the will of the people—that I should never recommend you to do—but when you find ill-considered legislation, measures which you think have not received due consideration by the representatives of the people, or by the public, it will be your duty to reject them for the moment, to give the people a further opportunity to examine them. If we continue to perform those duties with diligence, if we continue to exercise with dignity and efficiency the functions which the constitution entrusts to us, we may safely leave our reputation, our services, and our character, to the appreciation of our country, which we love and revere, and from which we shall receive all the recognition we desire, of our performance of the high functions of senators of this Dominion.