

the time the Liberal Administration was in power, from 1873 to 1878, there was any ground for saying that the Senate stood in the way of their measures, or offered factious opposition in any way; or that the Government of the day was unreasonably opposed by the majority in this House? I challenge them to show any single occasion on which they threw any impediment in the way of the Government carrying out its policy.

So far from that I remember a very important Government measure being brought in towards the end of a Session, a measure which several members not in sympathy with the Government objected strongly to some of its points, but came to the conclusion that they would not amend or defeat it—it was too late in the session to make alterations—so it was decided to let the measure pass and let the Government take the responsibility of it, thus showing that there was no inclination whatever on the part of the Senate to throw it out or jeopardise it by amendment, because the Government considered it an important measure. I am quite satisfied that such will be the case in the future, as it has been in the past, notwithstanding that the character of this House may be considered more Conservative than Liberal. I am quite satisfied that under any circumstances there would be no obstructions thrown in the way of a Liberal Government if they were in power. They would meet at the hands of the Senate the fairest and most liberal treatment. Their measures would doubtless be criticised but fairly, and there would be nothing done by the Senate to oppose the measures of the Government, simply because they emanated from it. Before sitting down I may make a remark with respect to the motion by which my hon. friend from Shediac has brought this matter before us. I think he has made a great mistake in the method which he has adopted. It should not have been done in the shape of an address to the Queen asking for certain specific things. My impression is this: If in his mind there was anything which he thought could be done to add to the usefulness, influence or prestige of this House, or would benefit it in any way, or would benefit the public through it, he was quite right to bring the matter before us and have it discussed, but it would have been far better in my judgment if it had been in

the shape of a motion asking the House to pass some resolution embodying his views. Some, perhaps, would support a resolution who would not support an address to the Queen in such terms as he proposes; he asks for what, in my judgment, would be a most awkward thing, if granted. It strikes me that it is most extraordinary to ask that Provinces should have the power of electing Senators and that the Crown shall have the power of appointing six members in an emergency as at present. What position would those six members occupy in such a body? A most undesirable one, in my opinion, exposing them to the taunt that they represented nobody, while their colleagues would boast of being representatives of large numbers of electors. Such an anomaly as six Government appointees in an elected house would never be approved by the advisers of the Crown, and I trust will not meet the approval of this House.

We have now had a very full discussion of this matter; public attention will doubtless be attracted to it, and I am satisfied that when the speeches of hon. members who have disapproved of the proposed address are fairly examined, their arguments will meet the approval of the public, and the Senate will be fully justified in refusing to adopt the motion which the hon. gentleman has submitted to the House.

HON. MR. ABBOTT.—I am disposed to regret that even the slight color which my hon. friend's address has given to what is sometimes said with regard to us, should have been afforded him on this occasion; but perhaps the difficulty which that may cause to us; the unpleasantness which we may feel from having the senseless cries occasionally heard about the Senate, supported by a voice from within, may be compensated by the full discussion which has taken place on the constitution of this body in the debate we have had to-day. My hon. friend and one or two other hon. gentlemen—very few in number, I must say, in so large a house,—have not found fault with the position of the Senate as regards its *personnel*, I am happy to say, because on that point every one who has spoken has declared that we could not be better off in that respect within the limits of our own Dominion. It is quite true that no one has used these words, but the hon.