

of the world, and second to no colony under Her Majesty's Crown—what right have we to legislate for difficulties that have not arisen, and may never arise? We have sailed along peaceably and gone on building up and developing and maturing this great country for still larger flights of greatness, and this Constitution of ours has been sufficient to meet all emergencies, and has proved to be perfectly elastic. How much better would this country be, supposing the present Senate were superannuated—and I am quite ready to go myself on such conditions—and other gentlemen were to take our places here under an elective system? I question very much if, under such a system, we could get any better representation than we now have in the Senate. We have some hon. gentlemen here unusually silent in their seats and seldom heard from in debate who, nevertheless, are very valuable men in the Committees on Banking and Commerce, Railways, Telegraphs and Harbours and other Committees, and who bring a wise and matured judgment and a vast and broad experience to the consideration of the measures brought before us. They are gentlemen who come here with large business experience, men that you might not be able to find here if they owed their position in the Senate to the elective system. I doubt very much if we would find managers of banks or directors of great railway corporations, who would canvass 1200 miles of territory for the sake of a seat in the upper House. I see gentlemen around me representing large mercantile enterprises, lawyers, bankers and manufacturers—men of easy circumstances and large interests, and is it for a moment to be considered that men of this character will undertake the hardships and difficulties of canvassing such immense districts as are suggested under the system proposed by the hon. gentleman, to be elected to the Senate?

HON. MR. POWER—They would be elected without canvassing.

HON. MR. HOWLAN—I have gone through several elections myself and I have never found that I could get elected without canvassing. I have known gentlemen to lose elections in that way.

HON. MR. POWER—You had not room to go very far in Prince Edward Island.

HON. MR. HOWLAN—No, but Prince Edward Island need not be ashamed of her representation in this and in other houses, but when it comes to a question of size I admit that both Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia would be lost in the great North West. In every other respect, we would be quite willing to be compared with any other Province. I do not intend to detain the House very much longer, but I do say this, that I am glad the question has been brought up in this House, because there is no doubt there is a great deal of unrest in the public mind, and in the minds of Senators, that we have not got the representation in the Government that we ought to have on the floor of this House. But every hon. gentleman who has had anything to do with the Government of a province or of a party must know that it is a very difficult task that the leader of this Government has to do. He has to take two elements that constitute the great majority in this country and put them together and make a Government of them, and under such a state of affairs the Government cannot always find itself in a position to give us two or three Ministers in this House. At all events, after this debate, the current of opinion on these benches will be seen by our leader and he will lay the matter before his colleagues, and I have no doubt that in the near future we may get the representation in this chamber that we desire. It is true we might assert ourselves by throwing out two or three Government Bills. In my experience I find it is one thing to raise an evil spirit, and another thing to lay him when you get him raised. I was not present last year when a Government Bill was thrown out of this House. At all events it appears to gratify the hon. gentleman opposite that it was thrown out, and I am glad to hear him say to-night that although he was opposed to that vote he believed it brought a great deal of credit to the Senate. I never saw any great show of party interest with regard to measures that were looked upon as doubtful in this House, and if the day does come when by a change of public opinion the Liberal party comes into power, and the majority of this House are found to be opposed to the legislation of the other House, it will be time enough to find a remedy—if the remedy we already find in