

hon. friend, however, that he had advanced but a very short distance on the road along which he was travelling. It was very kind in the hon. member for Bothwell to permit the Senators to live out their little day; but if he had put the case more strongly, the Senators would have been very likely to object to it. When we remember how many of those Senators had played an important part in the political affairs of the past, how many of them had been elected members of the Legislature for their Provinces and the old Province of Canada, it was hardly likely that their connection with public affairs would be terminated so quickly and easily as the hon. member appeared to anticipate. He complimented the hon. member for Bothwell on the manner in which he had submitted the question to the House in calm temper and gentlemanly language. In reaching the point at which the hon. gentleman had arrived, he had undoubtedly secured a great victory. The Committee should rise and report progress, and the duty of placing the position before the country and obtaining public opinion thereon would devolve upon the hon. member for Bothwell.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE, in reply to the remarks of the hon. member for Cardwell, in reference to the position of the Government, stated that the Government, as a Government, had taken no position on this vote. He had not discussed the matter before the vote was taken for the reason that he thought it most desirable that an independent opinion of the House should be expressed in such a way that there could be no party pressure of any kind placed upon any member, and he did so the more readily because he had always admitted that this was a matter for speculative opinion. When the subject was discussed in the old Parliament of Canada in 1865 he had stated:—"There is evidently room here for great latitude of opinion as to the Constitution of the Upper Chamber, and I do not think we can be fairly charged with retrogression because we choose to make the members of the Upper House nominative instead of elective." He was discussing at that time, the Constitution of the various Second Chambers in different parts of the world and pointing out the mode in which they were respectively constituted, and he stated:—"Our people comprise but one

*Hon. J. H. Cameron.*

class, and if the members of the two Chambers are to be chosen by the same electors, it is very clear that it would be extremely difficult for both to maintain their individuality, possessing similar powers and privileges, and avoid collision. It is evident that two Chambers which have originated in precisely the same way will claim to exercise the same rights and privileges, and to discharge the same functions; but were the Upper Chamber nominative instead of elective, the jurisdiction of that Chamber would be, of course, correspondingly changed, and the chances of collision made more remote." On one or two occasions since then he had expressed the opinion that the view he then took had not turned out as he expected. He did not mean at all to reflect upon any member of the Upper House, or to express any opinion upon the wisdom of the course they had taken, but he wished merely to express the opinion that in the light of our experience he did not believe that the power of nominating Senators should remain in the hands of the Government of the day. He was committed to no particular scheme; he was merely committed to the principle that it was desirable that there should be a change in the mode of constituting the Senate, and it would be the duty of the Government to consider, in the first place, whether public opinion throughout the country was in such an advanced state as to justify the Government in proposing a change to the Legislature, and when they were satisfied of that it would be their duty to use that public opinion in order to procure such a change as would fairly meet the views of the country. Although the majority for the resolution to-night was very small yet he was inclined to think it would have been larger rather than smaller if the House had been full. He had merely to say in reply to his hon. friend from Cardwell that he might depend upon it the Government would not shrink their full responsibility in this matter whenever they thought the proper time for action had arrived. At present he quite approved of the course which his hon. friend from Bothwell proposed to take, viz., having carried his motion and submitted his plan to the House, to proceed no further at present.

Hon. Mr. BLAKE observed that after the announcement of the First Minister