

legislature, and Amor De Cosmos was a member for the Legislature in Victoria, and Premier of British Columbia, as well as sitting in the Dominion House.

The opposition railed against this practice, claiming that it allowed the government in Ottawa to influence improperly the legislatures of the provinces. Conservative administrations in Quebec and Ontario, they claimed, were too closely tied to Macdonald and his federal ministry. In 1871 Edward Blake and Alexander Mackenzie, the leading Liberal MPs from Ontario, had won seats in the Ontario legislature, their goal to oust the Conservative ministry of John Sandfield Macdonald. In this they were successful and Blake became the second Premier of Ontario on 20 December 1871. Under his direction the legislature passed an act abolishing dual representation for Ontario members. Its provisions took effect beginning with the 1873 opening of the federal Parliament. Blake and Mackenzie then abandoned provincial politics and won election only to the Dominion House in the general election of 1872.

In the meantime their supporters, emboldened by Ontario's act, sponsored a bill compelling members of local legislatures, in provinces where dual representation was not allowed, to resign their seats before becoming candidates for the Dominion Parliament. It became law as 35 Vict., cap. 15 (1873). This was a conditional prohibition whose operation was dependent upon prior action by the provincial legislatures.

The First Session of the Second Parliament then moved further and made the prohibition apply to all legislatures. David Mills, Liberal member for Bothwell, Ontario, was the prime mover of the Dominion legislation. It stated that no person who was a member of the legislative council or assembly of an existing province, or one created in the future, would be eligible to sit in the House of Commons. The act (36 Vict., cap. 2) applied to the election of new members of the House during the continuance of the present Parliament. Sitting members could continue to hold their provincial seats until the dissolution of the Second Parliament. This event occurred, sooner than anticipated, after the November fall of the Macdonald government, when the new Mackenzie ministry chose on 2 January 1874 not to return to the House for a Third Session, but to dissolve the Second Parliament and seek a strong mandate in a fresh general election. Thus from the opening of the Third Parliament in March 1874 dual representation was abolished across Canada. The only exception was for Dominion senators, who were allowed to be members of the legislative council of Quebec.

Mills also carried on a lonely struggle to make the Senate an elective body. On 7 May 1873 he spoke to his motion that the present Senate was an "unintelligible mimicry" of the British House of Lords. Mackenzie supported Mills' motion by urging the adoption of the United States model of an elected upper chamber. He was joined by other Reform members. The debate soon descended into partisan differences of the personalities appointed to the Senate and Tupper brought it to a close with a characteristically resounding defence of the current method of constituting the Senate. Mills' motion was defeated, 61-46, in a half-empty chamber.

The First Session of 1873 came eventually to be dominated by the opposition's charges that the Macdonald government had received campaign contributions from Sir Hugh Allan of Montreal in return for the award of the contract to build the Pacific Railway. This was the Pacific Scandal, the improper transaction (in the eyes of many Canadians) which would lead in the Second Session to the fall of the Conservative administration. But in spite of the government's understandable and increasing preoccupation with the issue, several important pieces of legislation were approved during the First Session of the Second Parliament.