appointed Senate was, however, the nearest approach that could be made to the British system under the circumstances, in his opinion.

HON. MR. DICKEY—Because they were hereditary.

HON. MR. VIDAL—Yes, because they were hereditary. I venture a further remark with reference to the Senate of the United States which has been so prominently brought before us by several gentlemen who have spoken. I have not that intense admiration for it that has been expressed as being so general throughout the world. I think the Senate of the United States is about as partizan a body as can be found anywhere, and when we know the circumstances alluded to by the hon. member from Prince Edward Island, when we know that a treaty just, fair and likely to remove friction between the two countries was brought before them and rejected simply because of the partizan spirit of the majority, I am forced to the conclusion that a body that would so act has forfeited the claim to be considered an example for the rest of the world. My hon. friend from Ottawa (Mr. Scott) made a remark not particularly pertinent to the question before us, but which I do not like to permit to pass unchallenged. It was a statement which took me by surprise. I thought, can it be possible that I have been under such a mistake ever since the last general election to the House of Commons? He gave us to understand that the Province of Ontario was largely Liberal, giving as proof the fact that Mr. Mowat's Government continues in existence there for so many years, and indicating that its apparent Conservative character as shown by its representation in House of Commons was by a process of gerrymandering the electoral districts, so as to make a minority appear a majority. Since our recess, at six o'clock, I have taken the trouble to carefully examine the records ; I have added up the election returns for the whole Province of Ontario and what do you suppose is the result? So far from finding that the Conservative votes formed a minority, I find that throughout the whole Province they amounted to 6,442 more than the Liberal votes. I should think that ought to put at rest forever the statement which my hon. friend made. Whatever might be the

result in a few constituencies of an alteration of their boundaries, ceases to be of any value when compared with the Province as a whole.

HON. MR. PROWSE—Did you give the figures for the House of Commons or for the local House?

HON. MR. VIDAL—The House of Commons.

HON. MR. PROWSE—Can you give us the figures for the local House.

HON. MR. VIDAL—No, it is of the House of Commons that we were speaking and of the political parties of the Dominion.

HON. MR. McINNES (B.C.)—Is that the last elections?

HON. MR. VIDAL—Yes, I was speaking of the last election returns.

HON. MR. McINNES (B.C.)—He (Mr. Scott) was speaking of a period of 12 years.

HON. MR. VIDAL—I understood his remarks to apply to present circumstances as shown by the last election. I have not looked into any other. The claim which my hon. friend from Shediac makes, that there should be a change in the constitution of the Senate, rests largely on the allegation that our power is so limited. I cannot see how his proposition, if carried out, would add to our powers or influence. Consequently the change is entirely unnecessary and would be productive of no good at all. It has been repeatedly urged during this debate, that we are not in touch with the people. This also I do no admit. I hold that we are very closely in touch with the people and I am quite sure from the tone of the debates in the House, when a question of any importance has come up, that the rights and interests and well being of the people are upper most in every mind and they appear in every argument, showing that we are closely in touch with the people—in sympathy with them and endeavoring to guard their interests and to do the best we can for them. Some remarks have been made about the character of the Senate and its tendency to show a little partizan spirit. I ask the hon. gentlemen who have been here a good many years, whether during