

not the measures which promote the interests of Conservatives. Whether we are right or wrong about the tariff or other matters, we shall all benefit, or all suffer, as the case may be. We have common interests, but we do not take the same view of what those common interests are. That is the only difference between us.

I rejoice to have in mind the materials of which this House is composed. When I consider what the materials we have here are, how this House is composed, some very promising thoughts come into my mind. A large number of the members of this House, even before they came here, have had a very important training in matters of government and legislation, and all of them have had an important training in the affairs of the world generally, whether they have in matters of government and legislation or not; all of you were men of mark; all of you had influence in your respective localities, and many of you beyond your localities; and you were all men of activity and energy and force of character; you were all able to work your way up to the places which you hold now in the government of the country. And all classes are represented here; all nationalities, all the leading Christian denominations, and all occupations are represented here. I have spoken of the training which a large number of you had, even before coming here, and you have had more training since in matters of government and legislation. You have several ex-judges here, and we all know the value that is placed upon the assistance of judges in the legislation of a country. You have three, perhaps you have more than three, who have been lieutenant governors of provinces, the highest gift, I suppose, which is in the hand of the Dominion government. Then you have at least one hon. gentleman who has been premier of Canada and has all the experience and all the ability implied in one who reaches that high position. You have several ex-premiers of provinces here. You have other men who, though they had not reached the position of Dominion premier, have been ministers of the Crown for the Dominion. You have ministers here who were ministers in provincial affairs, and probably every one here has given much attention to political subjects and is familiar with them—subjects of government and legislation. When all this can be truly said

of a House, such a House ought to be a useful body; and what is to be said against it? Well, of course, politics are to be said against it. From my standpoint I cannot defend that part of the Senate's characteristics and will not make the attempt; but there are considerations bearing on that point which are extremely important and in which I think you will agree with me. One thing said against this House I am prepared here now, as a member of this House, to repudiate. It is often said that this House consists of old men, men who are worn out, either were never good for anything or are not good for anything now. But nothing can be more clear than that all the members of this House were once good for a great deal or they would not be here. That is the reason they are here, because they were good for a great deal. As to being too old for work, there are not many men in this House as old as Sir John A. Macdonald was when he was not too old to lead his party with great ability and acceptance, as he did until a few weeks before his death. There are not many of you so old as Sir Charles Tupper, who was chosen lately, either by his whole party or a portion of it, to be the leader of that party.

Several Hon. MEMBERS—The whole party.

Hon. Sir OLIVER MOWAT—The whole party—that is stronger. I wanted to be moderate. Not only a portion of the party, but all the Conservatives in Canada preferred him to lead the party in the elections and since. Very few of you are as old as he is. I believe most of you are not as old as one of the latest appointments the Liberal Government has made to this House. Not many of you are as old as my humble self, and I was thought equal to the office of Minister of Justice by the Liberal party; and it is in that capacity I am here, and it is, I believe, the first time in the history of this House when the Minister of Justice was a member of it.

Hon. Mr. DEVER—Sir Alexander Campbell was, for a time, Minister of Justice.

Hon. Sir OLIVER MOWAT—Sir Alexander Campbell was one of my early friends. He was one who illustrated how