

qualification, members of the Upper House were not. It was thought that a colony like ours would have a great advantage in having the experience of educated gentlemen, retired officers and other men of large experience, in the Upper House, requiring no property qualification, but the voters for the Upper House were required to have property qualification. Now, how did that work? We have had about thirty years experience of the working of that system. To-day we have in the Upper House in the Local Legislature a Liberal majority; in the Lower House, lately returned from election, the majority is Conservative. Four years ago the Government were returned with a Conservative majority of four, and more recently with a majority of one, and the two Houses have been at loggerheads. The lower House said that as they had just come from the people they were to all intents and purposes the representatives of the people; while the gentlemen of the Upper House, elected for seven years, some of them dropping out every three or four years, say that they represent the property owners, and, as a consequence, we have two sets of legislators who say they have a right to represent the people, and the practical working of the system is that the majority of the Lower House are unable to carry out their views in consequence of the opposition of the Upper House. It has also been clearly demonstrated that a legislature of thirty members in the Lower House and thirteen in the Upper House is rather too large for so small a Province, and its alleged circumstances since Confederation, and it is the opinion of the people of Prince Edward Island that the Upper House should be done away with and the Lower House reduced in numbers. Still, from the fact of these gentlemen of the Upper House having the power in their own hands, the people are unable to carry out such a reform. Here, at Ottawa, we have a practical illustration of the working of the elective principle and the nominative principle. We have gone on for thirty years building up this country and increasing our revenue from fourteen millions of dollars to thirty-eight millions of dollars, and we have not yet found an abrasion with regard to our constitution. That the system is a sound one is proved by the resolution before the House to-

night, and the tenor of the debate that has taken place upon it, which shows how entirely free we are from any complications. These gentlemen who paid any attention to the debates on Confederation, will remember that two distinguished men, the Hon. Geo. Brown and the present leader of the Dominion Government, gentlemen who had responsibilities on them with regard to the government of Canada, both agreed on a nominative council. There was a consensus of opinion in that direction. We have had nothing since in our experience to show that they were not right in adopting it. We have passed a great many important measures, and have had a great deal of excitement in the country, and we know that at the present time there is a good deal of unrest in the public mind on certain public questions. That must always be the case under a constitution like ours where freedom of expression, freedom of debate and a free press, exist. It is one of the results of such a system; and there is no use in ignoring it. The constitution under which we live, the English constitution, is, if I may so speak, like a ship at sea. When she leaves port, she has to trim her sails for the voyage, but hanging upon her bows she has two anchors and two chains ready for any emergency. When she comes into port she drops her stream anchor and rides safely into the harbor; but if a gale springs up she drops her sheet anchor and rides out the storm. So it is with our constitution. The lower House is the stream anchor of the constitution; the other anchor is the Senate that enables the constitution to meet any strain to which it may be subjected. We ought to be obliged to the hon. gentleman from Acadie for introducing this resolution. I, at all events, desire to express my gratitude to him, and I think I am expressing the gratitude of hon. gentlemen around me, for having so clearly pointed out that, so far as we are concerned, we are not to be disturbed. That is very pleasant and assuring at our time of life, but I may say to my hon. friend that he is a very young man yet, and, some day, he may lead this Senate, and I say to him, if we are sailing along at the present time with a smooth sea and no difficulties staring us in the face—with a country full of prosperity, with an increasing revenue, with our credit standing high in the money markets