

Minister express the will of the masses better than the American Senate, Cabinet and President do, and hence are more democratic.

The Senate has equal legislative power with the House of Representatives. And, although it cannot originate a revenue bill, yet it can amend such a bill as much as it likes and by this means be as influential as the Representatives in determining its final form. Besides this, it alone exercises important executive and judicial functions which makes it a much more powerful and important body than the Representatives. If, therefore, the government of the United States is going to be democratic, it is imperative that the Senate should be democratic.

The Senate is composed of 96 members, one-third of whom are elected every second years for a term of six years. Two are chosen from each State, regardless of the population, and because of this Nevada, with a population of 81,000, has as much power in originating, passing or checking the laws of the land as New York with a population of 9,113,000. Now, equal State representation might have served a useful purpose 130 years ago, and conceivably the Senate may be of some use today, but it never was democratic and never can be so long as one man in Nevada is equal to 113 men in New York, because no elective body can be democratic which is elected on any other basis than that of proportional representation.

Moreover, when once elected the Senate is omnipotent for four years. If it fails to carry out the people's will it cannot be got rid of, and is therefore undemocratic. It cannot be dismissed as a whole nor can its individual members be impeached or dismissed. In 1898, the legislature of Kentucky asked Senator Lindsay to resign as he was misrepresenting his party and State. Senator Lindsay refused and his reply was, "My term of office is fixed by the Constitution of the United States." Let our opponents explain if they can, how a government can be politically democratic in which one man can continue to spurn the wishes of an entire State for six years. Again, the Senate has power to block the entire government of the United States, and as our second speaker has shown, it has caused fifty-nine deadlocks in the last fifteen years. It can refuse to pass any bill, and no bill can become law which does not pass the Senate. He brands not only the Senate but the whole American government as undemocratic, because no