

Thirdly, the Prime Minister cannot act unless he has the support of the majority in the Commons, and besides the people may check him at any time by the Lords calling for a general election. The President, however, exercises great power entirely independent of Congress or people. He can declare martial law at any time and then he becomes absolute. President Taft declared that he could appoint 993 officers in the civic service, and dismiss 308,370 entirely independent of Congress. As a proof that this is done, President Harrison dismissed 30,000 officers from the civil service in a single year, simply because they did not vote for him.

For these three reasons, I submit, that the Prime Minister is democratic, according to the definition given to us, namely, that of expressing the will of the people, while the President who violates all three cannot be otherwise than undemocratic.

I take it, that there is no higher authority today on the American government than President Wilson, who, in an article called "The New Freedom," written since he became President, sums up the American government thus: "The masters of the government of the United States are the combined capitalists and manufacturers of the United States. The government of the United States in recent years has not been administered by the common people and it is at present a foster-child of special interests. We have come to be one of the worst ruled, one of the most completely controlled and dominated governments in the civilized world, no longer a government by the free opinion, no longer a government by conviction and the vote of the majority, but a government by the opinion and duress of small groups of dominant men."

President Wilson fully agrees with the affirmative of this debate tonight in declaring the government of the United States undemocratic.

Now, sir, I have shown that the American Senate is undemocratic because:—

First: It is not elected on the basis of proportional representation.

Secondly: It is not responsible to the people because it cannot be removed for bad government or made to do as the people wish.

Thirdly: It can and does block the expressed wishes of the people.