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CANADIAN SENATE

The reopening of the Canadian parliament reminds us that Premier Mackenzie King promised the people that something would happen to the senate before long. Since that time there has been a Conservative majority in the upper chamber and it has been useless to expect any change. Now, however, the balance of parties must be very close and the time should come before the general election when the premier may redeem his promise to the electorate.

Should the senate refuse to be reformed, it would make a good election cry next year or the year after, whenever the government decides to appeal for another term of office.

At Confederation it was understood that the senate was to be a non-partisan body. Governments of both parties, however, have invariably, with one exception, appointed men of their own party. The result is that a new government usually finds itself confronted with a senate in which its opponents predominate.

Proposals for reform have been of several kinds: (1) abolition of the second chamber, (2) popular election, (3) appointment or election by provincial legislatures, (4) lessening of the veto power, as was done in Great Britain, (5) the over-riding vote, a measure becoming law if it is supported by a majority of the total number of members and senators, (6) an age limit, (7) a fixed term of office. At a conference of the Dominion and provincial governments held in 1927, abolition found no supporters, and the question of reform was left open. The over-riding majority was favored by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, but nothing has since been heard of it. Before Confederation, the second chamber of the old parliament of Canada was elected by popular vote. All the old members were appointed senators, but the elective method was abandoned as inconvenient, involving (because of the large area of the constituencies) electioneering on a large and expensive scale. The argument was also used that an elective senate might claim equal rights and powers with the house of commons, thereby causing deadlocks in government. As to the age limit, it may be remarked that two of the most active and influential members are Senator Beique on the Liberal side, aged nearly 84, and Sir George E. Foster on the Conservative side, aged 81. Senator Dessaulles, who was presented with a portrait of himself on attaining his hundredth birthday in 1927, does not speak often, but is in full possession of his faculties.

But none of the proposals for reform really goes to the root of the difficulty, which is the inherent difficulty of two chambers functioning together. In the early part of the session, after the address in reply to the speech from the throne has been carried, the senate has nothing to do, and usually adjourns until some legislation is passed by the house of commons, and afterwards there are other adjournments for the same reason. The senate is criticized for these adjournments, and hard working senators are sensitive on the point, but it is difficult to find a remedy. Some say that more legislation should be initiated in the senate. Others try to find occupation by discussions which are called academic because they do not produce immediate fruit in legislation, but which may nevertheless be useful in preparing the ground.

The house of commons is the body that represents the people of the country and must in the long run control. The senate has become a sort of glorified old men's home and is used only for obstructionist purposes. It seldom if ever initiates anything. Also, it may be said that no man leaves the commons for the other chamber unless his work is finished.



**ANTI-AMERICAN
 OPINION SEEN
 GREAT BRITAIN**

English Writers Who Are Widely Read Speak of Danger in Present Situation

That there is danger of Anglo-American relations becoming less cordial than they are today seems to be the opinion of a good many people in Great Britain. Two views have been given wide publicity. One is that of Horatio Bottomley and the other that of Norman Angell, the Pacifist. Both are read with avidity by their particular followers numbering many thousands, possibly millions. Here they are:

Horatio Bottomley

America doesn't care a damn for an Anglo-American union or for the prosperity of the Anglo-Saxon race, or, for that matter, the peace of the world. War is the breath of her nostrils. It means filling her coffers with European gold, and the creation of an ever-increasing army of bloated millionaires—increasing, by the way, at the rate of 50 a year.

The truth is, America has no genuine sympathy with Europe, and is jealous of, and antagonistic to Britain.

I have the nasty knack of saying things which others only think, and in American jargon I declare "here and now" that America has her eye on Canada, whom she is gradually getting into her power by the "peaceful penetration" of loans and financing control. It is time we spoke plainly, and I think self-preservation and common sense dictate not only an Anglo-French naval understanding, but a European pact of peace—yes, with Germany included—against that ice-water drinking continent whose hypocritical prohibition farce our own fanatical teetotalers are threatening to make a cry at the general election.

Norman Angell

It will not do to treat such explosions altogether with derision. That type of thing is an element in these difficulties. The Bottomleys live by a demagoguery to which there must be some response, or they would not live so opulently. They anticipate the loss of temper on the part of the public; say in some measure now what better men will be saying when they have acquired the recklessness of bad temper. Moreover, the parallelism with what happened before the war as between Britain and Germany is too close not to be alarming. Not less alarming is the fact that the popular writer who but a year or two ago was clamouring for the destruction of all "Germhuns like so much vermin," now urges alliances with those "vermin" against English-speaking America, and in so doing knows that he does not lose popularity.

**NELLIE MCCLUNG SEES
 PLACE FOR WOMAN IN
 MINISTRY OF CHURCH**

Well Known Author and Lecturer Urges in Favor of Ordination of Members of Fair Sex

EDMONTON, Feb. 12:—There is no bar in reason or religion against the ordination of women, according to the finding of the commission of the general council of the United Church of Canada; there are 52 places in the home mission fields of western Canada for which missionaries cannot be found; no biological difference can hinder the soul's relationship to God; economic conditions are driving women out of their homes. These were the chief reasons advanced by Mrs. Nellie McClung "Why Women Should Be Ordained to the Ministry of the United Church of Canada on the Same Basis as Men" when the subject was debated by Mrs. McClung and Rev. W. A. Lewis of Calgary at McDougall Church, and won by the former.

Church Losing

Mrs. McClung pointed out that it was not women's fault that industry had been taken out of the home and they had been left with leisure on their hands. She

took one instance of a girl in Saskatchewan who had completed her studies for the ministry and was now carrying on at Wakaw, doing splendid work for the church but is handicapped by the fact that she hasn't the full authority to give the sacraments. This girl had taken up the study to fill the place of a brother killed in the great war, who was a theological student. Referring to the period of transition through which women were going economically, Mrs. McClung thought the church was losing out in that she was not picking out women, to be leaders in the new era, and is lacking in vision.

That women could not keep good homes and take a place in the world as well, Mrs. McClung did not agree. As shining examples, she pointed to Herbert Hoover's mother, a Quaker preacher, and the mother of Charles Lindbergh, who is a teacher of chemistry.

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The past ten years have seen this industry grow from 14 million to 27 million dollars... an increase of 89%. Our annual catch totals nearly half the entire Canadian production, and "King Salmon," our marine silver mine accounts for at least 15 million dollars a year.

The distribution from our Provincial hatcheries of millions of salmon eggs to renew the harvest that goes into the nets; the Treaty between Canada and the United States for the protection of the Pacific Halibut (March, 1923) providing a close season from November 16th to February 15th; modernized canneries, 83 in number, and sane Federal Fishing Laws, carefully administered, are the foundation of an industry that will continue to grow.

The fame of British Columbia's Whaling Fisheries is of long standing, and has materially increased the value of the products from this industry. The yearly catch, now about 400, is taken between one station on Vancouver Island and two stations on the Queen Charlotte Islands.

Much as has been done to develop and conserve our fishing industry, there still remains a great deal to be accomplished. The vastness of our waters and the extent and ruggedness of our coast make organized protection and administration extremely costly.

But the safeguarding of our fisheries is a matter which now commands the earnest attention of our government, who realize the importance of conserving this basic industry.

As the oldest industry of our Dominion, fishing has been one of the largest revenue producers, and it is significant that Canada's youngest Province, in less than twenty years, should secure a leading position in the world market. This aggressive search for foreign business has been an asset which undoubtedly has created one of the most amazing records of our basic industries. Well may we be proud of our Fisheries!

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