

Newfoundland

general agreement with him. If we are to have a second house, it should be such a house as to warrant the respect of the Canadian people, and be of some use in the government of Canada. Otherwise we should abolish it.

Mr. Rowe: It is of plenty of use to the government; but that is all the use it is.

Mr. MacNicol: Is a question about appointments to the Senate in order?

The Chairman: I do not think that discussion generally on appointments to the Senate is in order. When the house is in committee of the whole, discussion must be strictly relevant to the clause under consideration.

Mr. Hazen: I should like to support the suggestion made by the hon. member for Kamloops. The Prime Minister has just told us, perhaps jocularly, that the people of Newfoundland do not know just what their political opinions are now, because they have not had an election for so long a time. I would point out to him that at the time of confederation there was a great upheaval in political opinion, and some men who took an active interest in public affairs changed their ideas. Some went one way and some went the other. Some were in favour of confederation and some were against it. I believe it is true that, when the senators were appointed after confederation, they were chosen both from those who opposed confederation and from those who favoured it. The government of that day took care to see that the Senate was represented by both those who favoured confederation and those who opposed it. In Newfoundland today there are people who oppose this union and people who favour it. I think that the example followed at the time of confederation could well be followed today, and that it would have good results in the end.

Mr. MacNicol: I was going to say, Mr. Chairman, that if the present government remains in power—

Mr. Harris (Grey-Bruce): As it will.

Mr. MacNicol: Wait a minute. I know what I am going to say. If it remains in power for another five years, there may be only one party in the other place.

Mr. Rowe: Five years? You mean five months.

Mr. MacNicol: I am taking an arbitrary position. If the government remains in power for another five years, and appointments are continued on the present basis, all from their own party, it will mean that there may be only one party in the other place. The hon. member for Saint John-Albert brought up the

[Mr. MacInnis.]

matter I had in mind. Right after confederation a bill was introduced. I forget the name of the sponsor, but I have a copy of the original bill at home. There was a suggestion that the government of each province should appoint one half the senators from that province. The Prime Minister nods his head. He is familiar with that suggestion. The government in each province would name one half of the senators and the federal government would name the other half. In that way the government would avoid what is taking place now. I have forgotten how many Liberal senators and how many Conservative senators there are in the other place. They are so far apart in numbers that the other place has become only a government rubber stamp, with no possibility of the opposition affecting any controversial legislation.

Since the government will name the senators from Newfoundland, I suggest to the Prime Minister that one half be named from supporters of the official opposition and one half from government supporters.

Mr. Brooks: Everybody seems to be giving advice to the government as to whom they should appoint to the Senate. I noticed that three religious denominations were mentioned. I thought that I should mention the military forces of Newfoundland. Yesterday we heard of the splendid record of the navy, the army and the air force of Newfoundland. I remember that after the first world war vacancies in the Senate were filled from the different armed forces. If that practice was good in those days it is good now. I suggest to the Prime Minister that in making these appointments he consider making some of them from the different armed forces. The armed forces are entitled to this consideration and Newfoundland would be a good place to start. It could then be followed out in filling the large number of vacancies that we have in Canada.

Mr. St. Laurent: I thank hon. members for the advice that is being tendered tonight. I would not have risen even to express my thanks were it not that I find it necessary to differ from the opinion expressed by the hon. member for Davenport. It would be a mistake to have in the other place gentlemen feeling that they had a responsibility to a government of a Canadian province. National unity in Canada demands that all those who form part of the Canadian parliament feel that their responsibility is to the Canadian people as a whole, and that they are not the representatives of any provincial government or any municipality or other local authority. On that point I feel that I have to differ from the hon. gentleman. But I do recognize that