

SENATE REFORM DISCUSSED

BY A WRITER IN M'LEAN'S

When, at the coming session, Parliament discusses the latest Senate Reform proposals, it will be dealing with a subject that has been echoed on the Capital Hill for decades.

The earliest demands for senate reform in Canada were voiced while the British North America Act was still in its experimental stages. The senate has been in existence for sixty years, and for fifty-three of them proposals for strengthening, weakening or moving toward abolition of the Upper Chambers have been constantly to the fore. Grattan O'Leary, writing in the January 1 issue of MacLean's Magazine, under the caption "What of the Senate," traces the movement for reform from the earliest beginnings and points out that in the session of the House of Commons in 1874, David Mills, afterwards Minister of Justice and a member of the Supreme Court moved as follows:

"That the present mode of constituting the Senate is inconsistent with the Federal principle in our system of government, makes the Senate alike independent of the people and of the Crown, and is in other material respects defective, and our Constitution ought to be so amended as to confer upon each Province the power of selecting its own Senators, and to defining the mode of their selection."

Nothing came of this resolution, but the seeds of agitation for reform were sowed, and the clamor has been maintained to the present.

The Liberal party made senate reform a plank of their platform in 1891; and forgot about it after 1896; but in 1906 the whole problem was reopened again. In 1910, 1911, fresh resolutions were introduced in the house, all with negative result.

"But the present attack is formidable," says Mr. O'Leary. "It is backed by a powerful ministry. It has the sanction of two political parties; the partial acquiescence of a third; has been solemnly discussed by the greatest Interprovincial conference since

Confederation; and has a potent press. If the Senate can survive this assault it should go on to a ripe old age pretty much as it is, with a snuff-box, a red carpet, glorious privileges, and some brains. But the issue is in doubt. "Mr. King, it should be made clear, does not want to abolish the Senate. Far from it. He does not even want to lose the right of appointing Senators. A few years ago Mr. Fielding, when he was still a member of the Government, proposed that half the senators should be appointed by the provinces. He would have one half of the senators federal and the other half provincial. They should all be appointed not for life, but for a period of ten years; should be eligible for reappointment; and should be retired at the age of seventy-five. It was this scheme that Mr. Hoey, of Manitoba, presented to the Interprovincial Conference at Ottawa.

But it is not Mr. King's scheme. The Prime Minister's proposal, in so far as he has taken the public into his confidence, is simply that after a bill has passed the House of Commons at three successive sessions, it shall, no matter what the Senate does about it, automatically become law.

The Senators might throw the measure out the first session, and reject it again the second session, but at the third session, if the House of Commons persisted that long, the Senate would be powerless to act. Its position would be that of the British House of Lords.

"Much may be said for this scheme. At first blush, indeed, it would seem that in a democratic country there is little that can be said against it. Yet—as its critics have been quick to point out—it has its weaknesses. In the first place, it pre-supposes that the House of Commons invariably reflects what is known as public opinion, and that, therefore, in rejecting any Government or House of Commons measure, the Senate is flouting the people's will. That, of course, is a

proposition that cannot be sustained.

"Let the Senate, despite all that is said against it, or that can be said against it, is not as bad as it is painted. There have been some weak men, and stupid, there, and there are some pages in the history of the Senate that one would willingly blot out; but also there have been good men and able men, men who proved that they cared a lot for the common good. Nor has the Senate acted as a steady block to the legislation of the Commons. It has amended not more than thirty per cent, and rejected not more than three per cent. of all the bills that have been sent it by the Commons since Confederation; and those who, like myself, have been watching parliament and governments closely for more than fifteen years know that, in many cases, it has, by buttressing and strengthening legislation, saved Canada millions of dollars. In the average of its intellect, too, it can more than match minds with the Commons.

"It would be foolish to argue that the Senate cannot, or should not, be improved. But whether the improvement should come or would come through Mr. King's scheme, is another matter. There are many who believe that the best scheme of all would be to get back to the original ideas of those who created the Senate. If the Senate has failed, these argue, it is for the reason that it has never been properly tried."

GLOVES LOST
IN THE SUBWAY
IN ONE YEAR

London Jan. 11—So many right hand gloves are lost in the London underground regularly that a business has grown up where odd gloves may be purchased to match the remaining one. Forty thousand were left in the underground and tube trains during the last twelve months.

Umbrellas figured next in the figures announced by the "palace of carelessness," as the house where lost articles are assembled is called. There were 12,000 umbrellas and 500 canes. The lost articles are kept six months and, if not claimed, are sold.

EXPERIMENTAL FARM EMPLOYEE
DESCRIBES A VISIT TO MANZER
BROTHERS' FARM AT MILLVILLE

(R. R. Black in Maritime Farmer.)

On several occasions I have been invited to Spafford Manzer, one of the Manzer brothers of Millville, N. B., to come out to his place for a fishing or hunting trip.

A few days ago, I decided to take advantage of this invitation and go out to look for deer. Seeing Mr. Manzer in town one day, I asked him to tie one in his orchard for me.

After a drive of ten and a half miles over frozen, icy roads, I arrived at Mr. Manzer's home and was given a hearty welcome: it being Sunday "Spoff," was really taking time to shave and when this operation was completed we went out to inspect the new barn which is nearing completion. It is a hip-roof structure, shingled on sides and ends, with a steel roof, a basement stable capable of housing twenty head of milch cows with bull pen, box stalls for cows, three calf pens and eight horse stalls. cement floors and managers with Loudens' steel fixtures including automatic water bowls. Above the cement wall which is about four feet high is a coating of cement similar to a plastered wall of a house, put on over wire lath, which should make it very comfortable; it is also ventilated in the most modern and up-to-date manner. The barn is capable of storing one hundred tons of hay, besides all his grain which is no small amount. The roof cellar has a capacity of two thousand bushels. The roots are brought up by a carrier and distributed to any part of the stable desired. The litter carrier runs through the calf pens, along behind the cows, thence back of the horses, to the site of the manure pit which will be built next summer. There is also another track from the pit to the old barn, which they are making over and will be used for young stock. I can not begin to tell the many labor-saving devices and original ideas which the Manzers have put in their barn, of their own designing. They built it by days' work themselves with the help of a Mr. Mills, a carpenter of an exceptionally ingenious brain.

Green Mountain Potatoes.

The Manzers' farm consists of about two hundred acres of cultivated land; they specialize in registered Banner oats and certified Green Mountain potatoes. The Manzers are very modest and have not been in the limelight much, but the name is known to all growers of good grain and potatoes, Spafford Manzer being President of the Co-operative Grain Growers' Association, which has its grading plant and headquarters at the Experimental Station, Fredericton.

I was interested in the way the Manzers grew their potatoes to enable them to get a dollar or more than anybody else. In the first place, the land is the most important factor and next the best seed to be had. Then they take care of the growing crop faithfully and store properly.

A second year sod is used which has been top dressed with about ten tons per acre after the first year hay is taken off; this land is ploughed in the fall about six inches deep; in the spring it is disced generally four times then the spring tooth is put over it twice. By this time it is ready for the planter. They use an I. H. C. planter, rows 34 in. apart and sets 12 in. apart. One ton of 5-8-7 is used per acre. I don't want to advertise any planter but Mr. Manzer especially commented on the way his planter sowed fertilizer and mixed it with the soil, so it does not come in direct contact with the sett. The plants are cultivated, hoe-hood and sprayed every ten days, or in less time if the season demands it; a 4-4-40 is used as a spray and his potatoes are rogued by inspectors each fall. Last year his inspectors' report only showed a "trace of disease" which is as near perfect as can be. A Hoover digger is used with three and sometimes four horses so it can be kept moving steadily. A small army of pickers are on the job picking in sections by the barrel, so the digger must be kept going as fast as possible. As we were walking across one of his fields of about ten acres, I noticed the absence of potato tops and asked him if he carted them away. "No," he said, "Providence did that for me. One day when we were about through digging, a wind came up, blowing easily at first,

making the field look like a sea with the tops all waving. As the wind got stronger they started to blow against the rows I was digging and got so bad I had to quit. I started to dig from the other side of the field, and by night the tops couldn't be seen except against the woods about three-quarters of a mile away."

Their average yield of potatoes is about one hundred twenty-five barrels per acre and they plan on planting about twenty-five acres next year. In treating their potatoes before cutting they prefer corrosive sublimate as the job is more quickly accomplished and time is the big factor where help is scarce. They have a very ingenious method of treating by the use of barrels with plugs in the bottom. The potatoes are treated in these barrels, then the liquid drained off by removing the plugs. The potato house has a capacity of 1200 barrels, with a convenient loading shed in connection.

Their water system is supplied by a ram, first to the house, then the barn and yards. A new house was built about a year ago complete with hardwood floors, bathroom and all modern conveniences. Mrs. Manzer is an ideal hostess and her fame as a cook is known the country over. Good old buckwheat pancakes, maple syrup, hot biscuits and lemon pie. Don't they sound good?

Manzer Bros. grow their own oats, following potatoes. They like to use about four hundred pounds of fertilizer to give them a good start. They sow about four bushels of oats per acre, "a little heavy seeding," Mr. Manzer says—but they have to feed a little million crows each year. Their banner crop was 75 bushels per acre, their average about 65 per acre.

Their crop is shipped to the grading plant at Fredericton and disposed of by the association.

They have not as yet got into any particular breed of cows, but their object in building a good barn is partly to start a good standard breed; the Guernsey is favored by them as they make and ship butter to Fredericton.

These men deserve a lot of credit for what they have done, are doing, and plan to do in the future.

Messrs. Manzer keep in touch with the work and experiments at the Station in Fredericton and referred to the splendid work of Mr. C. F. Bailey in organizing and holding Field Days when farmers could get together and talk over their work.

I almost forgot to tell you that I not only got one deer, but two bucks, in the woods near the farm. Next spring I hope to have a week-end fishing up there partly as an excuse to see how they are progressing, and to eat at Mrs. Manzer's table.

AIRPLANE MADE
NOSE DIVE INTO
A STONE WALL

Grafton, Mass., Jan. 10—George M. Knowlton, third son of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Knowlton, of West Upton, was killed and Capt. Henry E. Stickney, pilot of the New England Aircraft Corporation at the Worcester aviation field in North Grafton, was probably fatally injured at noon today when an aeroplane in which Capt. Stickney was giving instructions to young Knowlton made a nose dive of several hundred feet into a stone wall. Capt. Stickney is in the hospital with both arms and both legs broken and the chances are against his recovery.

LADY ASTOR'S
ORDER IGNORED

London, Jan. 11—Eating an orange is Lady Astor's substitute for smoking a cigarette. At the annual dinner of the Three Towns Association, after a peech was made, "Ladies, you may smoke."

Lady Astor, who was seated next to the chairman, broke in with, "Ladies, you must not smoke" and instead of taking a cigarette, she began to eat an orange. But her example was not followed by many.

Dyspepsia Troubled
Him for Many Years

Mr. J. Savoy, Loggieville, N.B., writes:—"I have suffered for many years from dyspepsia and could not seem to get any relief. "One day I told my wife I thought I would try a bottle of

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and when I had half of it taken I felt a lot better, so I continued until I had taken two bottles, and now have no pains and no coated tongue, and feel that I am completely rid of my trouble."

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