

Parliamentary government by which this country was ruled was, on the whole, the brightest discovery in the way of politics that the human race had ever made, and they should be not only injuring themselves, but the prospects of full government throughout the world if they were to allow the free deliberations of Parliament to be superseded by a more dictatorial system—(cheers). But unless something were done, that was the direction in which they would be carried. It was impossible for the business of a great empire like this, under a system of Parliamentary paralysis such as it was now suffering from, to be carried on; and, if the Parliamentary business could not be reformed, he only saw two other ways by which it was possible. One, and a very practical one, was to reform the House of Lords—(cheers). The existence of a hereditary and irresponsible House had two bad effects upon the business of the House of Commons. Sometimes, as in the case of the Compensation for Disturbance Bill, it actually defeated the intentions of the Government and set at naught the wishes of a majority in the House of Commons, and, even when it did not do that, it tended to promote obstruction in the House of Commons by encouraging the Tory party either to protract discussion, to take unnecessary divisions, or to raise unnecessary questions in which they knew they would be defeated, in order to lay a foundation for subsequent action in the House of Lords, and stir up the House of Lords to further resistance to the popular will—(cheers). He therefore thought that a reform of the House of Lords would be useful to expedite the business of the House of Commons. Another reform they wanted was the extinction of the small constituencies—(cheers). They had at this moment in this country a great number of small constituencies whose members were not under any practical, substantial sense of responsibilities—constituencies that returned their members not so much upon political as upon personal, local, family, and sometimes even pecuniary grounds—(hear, hear, and cheers). They wanted to substitute for them large constituencies so that every member shall represent a substantial body of electors who should have their action guided not by private but by public motives—(cheers). When they looked into it they would find that the members who indulged in obstruction were very seldom representatives of large constituencies. The resolution asked them to express approval of the measures referred to in the Queen's Speech. They hoped, although the experience of the past three years was not encouraging, to be able to do a sub-