

to conceive. As the unit of population in 1871 was 18,400, it meant that 10,500 whites in British Columbia had as much voice in the government of the country as 110,000 in Ontario, and that one vote there was more than equal to six votes in Ontario or any of the older provinces. It was not only bad in itself, but it was doubly objectionable as being a fraud on his own province, whose chief object in entering Confederation was to secure a fair and equal representation. It was done on the very eve of a general election without giving the people of Canada or of Ontario an opportunity of pronouncing on this and other important questions involved in the introduction of British Columbia, no one of which had been before them at the time the sitting Parliament was elected.

REPORTER. Surely this did not pass unopposed?

SIR RICHARD. It was opposed, and most vigorously, too. The final vote against a proposal to defer action till the matter had been considered by the electors was only carried by a majority of ten in a House where Sir John had usually a majority on such questions of from sixty to seventy, and this majority was exclusively made up of his own colleagues. The case of Manitoba was not much better. In that province a population of twenty-five thousand were allotted four members, about three times as many as they were entitled to, and for much the same reason.

REPORTER. Waiving this point, what did you think should have been done?

SIR RICHARD. The only rational course was to apply ourselves with all speed to create a strong central province in Manitoba, and when this was done to extend ourselves from this base east and west. To this end we had to construct a line from Lake Superior to Winnipeg at once and also to connect that point with the United States lines to the south. When that was done it would have been ample time to take up the question of a union with British Columbia and the extension of the railroad to the Coast. One thing is certain, that never was a great project undertaken with less knowledge or consideration than the