

of the wealth of the country we are divesting ourselves of. The question of representation in the maritime provinces as bearing on the increased territory is also a great hardship to us. I tell the government that if they want to adhere to the terms of confederation and to maintain Quebec as the pivotal province on which representation is based the proper thing to do in arriving at the basis of representation is to take the province of Quebec as it stood at confederation. I think the Prime Minister will agree with me that that would be a fair proposition. We came into confederation on the understanding that the basis of representation would be on Quebec as it then stood and not on the population you would give to Quebec by adding thousands of square miles of territory. After what has been said here to-day the government should hold their hand; find out what these lands are worth and find out what we should get in return for these lands for which the whole Dominion of Canada paid. Is it right that this territory should be thrown away without our knowing what its value is?

Mr. FOSTER. Can the Prime Minister now state the area that will be added to the province of Ontario?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I cannot find it in my notes, but I am pretty sure it is about 140,000 square miles.

Hon. WM. PUGSLEY (Minister of Public Works). Mr. Speaker, I deem it my duty to make a few remarks to the House in consequence of my hon. friend the member for York, N.B. (Mr. Crocket) having quoted some remarks which I made while I was a member of the legislature and of the government of New Brunswick. I stated at that time, that in my opinion the boundaries of the province of Quebec had been enlarged pursuant to the provisions of the statute of 1871. I think there can be no doubt whatever that the northern boundary of the province of Quebec at the time of confederation was the height of land separating the waters which flowed into the St. Lawrence from the waters which flowed into Hudson bay. That is very clear from the treaty which was made between Great Britain and France. Under that treaty the land which was watered by the rivers flowing into Hudson bay remained under the jurisdiction of the Hudson Bay Company, while the land which was watered by the rivers flowing towards the St. Lawrence was given over to France. There can be no doubt whatever that the boundary line was the height of land. If I am correct in that, as I think I clearly established before the New Brunswick legislature, there is, to my mind, no question but that the territory which was defined as belonging to the province of Quebec in 1896 was new territory, and that therefore the boundaries of Quebec were

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enlarged beyond what they were at the time of confederation. I argued then, and I maintain now—as, of course, my own individual opinion—that in fixing the number of representatives at 65 from the province of Quebec, the province was taken as it existed at the time of the union. I had to do with the carrying of the question of representation to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council; but I may say that New Brunswick did not lose its representation by reason of any question which arose with regard to the added territory. There was no such population in the added territory as would alter the representation, but we lost by reason of the addition to Canada of the new territory which is now the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. It was the rapidly increasing population of those sections of the Dominion which prevented the province of New Brunswick from retaining the representation which it had at the then last preceding census.

Having made these remarks, Mr. Speaker, I desire to say that, as I understand it, there is nothing in the resolution now before the House which in any way commits the House upon the question of representation. The terms upon which the boundaries of Quebec shall be enlarged are left open, to be taken up between the government of Canada and the government of Quebec. My right hon. friend the Prime Minister has stated that this government will feel it to be its duty to make a representation to the government of the province of Quebec on the subject of representation.

Mr. CROCKET. Might I ask the hon. minister a question? Are not the terms stated to be such terms as may be agreed upon by this parliament and the legislature of Quebec?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Quite so.

Mr. CROCKET. There is no provision for safeguarding the interests of other provinces affected. I would like also to call the minister's attention to and get his opinion upon section 3 of the Act of 1871, which says:

The parliament of Canada may from time to time, with the consent of the legislature of any province of the said Dominion, increase, diminish or otherwise alter the limits of such province upon such terms and conditions as may be agreed to by the said legislature, and may, with the like consent, make provision respecting the effect and operation of any such increase or diminution or alteration of territory in relation to any province affected thereby.

It seems to me that there should be some provision made in this resolution with respect to that; because, if this resolution passes, it will be declared as the opinion of this parliament that it is expedient to ex-