

Prime Minister, this resolution is identical with the one which was introduced last session. That part of it which provides that the representation in the House of Commons was not in any case to be less than the representation in the Senate for any province, is the one in which the members from the Maritime Provinces are particularly interested. The first part of this resolution does not greatly interest the members from the Maritime Provinces. We would naturally wish that the resolution which affects us should not be coupled with any resolution which would meet with the disapproval of the hon. members of the Senate or contain anything which they would think contentious. Earlier in the session I asked the right hon. leader of the Government if he would not consent to introduce the part of this resolution relating to the Maritime Provinces, separately from that part which relates to the West. I would ask again to have that done. I do not, of course, suppose that the Senate will do what they did last year; I do not see any reason why they should, because if the West is entitled to the additional representation now they are entitled to have their senatorial representation increased just as much as if the readjustment were postponed until after the dissolution of this Parliament. I do not intend to discuss that phase of the matter. What interests me is the second portion of this resolution, and that alone; and I would ask the Government to consider this matter before they go any further with the resolution. There is no reason why there should not be two separate resolutions. If there is anything contentious or anything which the Government think would not meet with the approval of the Upper House, I would say that, in order to meet the wishes of the representatives from the maritime provinces, the second part of this resolution should be introduced separately. I did not suggest it lately to the right hon. leader of the Government, but when the matter was up about a fortnight ago I did make that representation, and I would again ask that the Government should reconsider the matter. We no doubt are entitled, so far as Prince Edward Island is concerned, to a representation of six, as has been stated in this House on many occasions. I think we have undoubted evidence that it was really intended when we entered Confederation that we should have a representation in this House of at least six; but the committee who had charge of the Redistribution Bill thought otherwise, and they suggested as a com-

promise that no province should have a representation in this House less than their representation in the Senate. This matter was first brought up in this House by the representatives from Prince Edward Island. The provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick at that time, I think about the year 1900, did not foresee that their populations would decrease or rather that the populations of the other provinces would so increase that their representation would decrease; but they have now come to realize that they are situated very much as are the people of Prince Edward Island, and they are anxious, of course, that their representation should be what was originally intended. My own opinion is that the gentlemen who formulated the terms of Confederation did not realize the meaning of the word "adjust," they imagined that it meant that the representation should be increased or could be increased, but that it should never be diminished. Of course the delegation from Prince Edward Island in 1873 had before them the resolutions passed by the Legislature of British Columbia and by this Parliament admitting British Columbia into the Union, but I do not even now believe that delegates from Prince Edward Island or even this Parliament realized the meaning of the word "adjust" as used in the resolutions which were passed here with reference to the admission of Prince Edward Island into this Union. At any rate, all the preliminaries to the admission of Prince Edward Island, the telegrams and other communications, go to show that Prince Edward Island intended that they should enter this Union with a representation of six, and that this number should not be liable to be diminished. Under these circumstances this matter has been argued over and over again before this House; and under the circumstances of the case I would suggest to the right hon. leader of the House that this resolution relating to representation should be put before the House separately from the other part of the resolution which relates to the representation in the Senate for the western provinces.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I think that all my hon. friend has in mind will be carried out if the resolution is sent to the Senate in its present form. There is no reason to believe that the Senate will adhere to their view of last year. If they do adhere to it then it will be time enough to consider the suggestion of my hon. friend.