

that we are within five days of the end of the session, surely he has courage enough to bring in a Bill which will deal with this question from the viewpoint of a statesman. I see the Prime Minister shakes his head. I protest against the delay; I say this resolution is nothing more than a fake intended to stand off the people until after the election. I want to tell the right hon. gentleman and those who sit behind him that the people of Manitoba will not stand for any such treatment as that, and he will find at the next election they will enter their protest at the polls as I have entered my protest in this House. The right hon. gentleman has the British North America Act before him; he knows the wishes of the people of Manitoba, and all they ask is that they be dealt with under the terms of the constitution. I repeat, in conclusion, that this resolution is merely intended to give the Manitoba Liberals something to go on the stump with, and in that light it is a subterfuge and nothing more.

Mr. JOHN STANFIELD (Colchester). In view of the fact that this proposal of the government is to give additional territory to the provinces of Ontario, Quebec and Manitoba, I think it is a fitting time for the people of the maritime provinces to ask that some safeguards be provided against the ruthless cutting down of their representation in this House of Commons. I am strongly of opinion that no justice can be done the people of the maritime provinces until their representation in this House is restored to that which it was before 1896. I do not think any member of this parliament will deny that the people of the maritime provinces are entitled to the representation which they understood they would have when they entered confederation, and with that end in view I move:

That the proposed resolution be amended by adding thereto the following paragraph:

Be it further resolved that the extension of the boundaries provided for by this resolution should be accompanied by such conditions as will prevent such extensions prejudicially affecting the representation of any province in parliament.

Mr. A. A. McLEAN (Queens, P.E.I.). I have great pleasure in seconding the resolution moved by the hon. member for Colchester. The House will observe that the resolution proposed by the right hon. the Prime Minister opens with this paragraph:

That it is expedient that the prayer of the said petitions should be acceded to, and that upon such terms and conditions as may be agreed to by the said legislative assembly and by parliament, the boundaries of Manitoba be extended as follows:

The northern boundary to be the sixtieth parallel of latitude; the western boundary to be the present eastern boundary line of the province of Saskatchewan to the said sixtieth parallel; the eastern boundary to be the pre-

sent eastern boundary as far north as the northeast corner of the province, thence on a straight line to the most eastern point of Island lake, and thence on a straight line to the point where the eighty-ninth meridian of west longitude intersects the shore line of Hudson bay.

And then with reference to the terms

And be it further resolved:

That, upon the legislature of the province of Quebec consenting thereto, it is expedient to extend the boundaries of the said province, upon such terms and conditions as may be agreed to by the said legislature and by parliament, so as to include all the territory to the north of the said province now known as Ungava, and extending to the waters of James bay and Hudson bay and the entrance thereto from the sea.

The provisions of the resolution respecting Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec are practically the same, with the exception that the lands to be granted to Ontario and Quebec are to be given absolutely to these provinces without condition, whereas the lands added to Manitoba are to be retained in the possession of the Dominion government and disposed of by them as may be thought proper, while the province has simply the power to administer the civil government in the territory. However, in lieu of the lands Manitoba is to receive a monetary consideration. The wording of these resolutions is copied in effect from the first lines of section 3 of the amendment of the British North America Act of 1871, which reads as follows:

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.

These are the exact words of the resolution as introduced by the Prime Minister. There is another clause in this section of the Act which has been omitted from the resolution, and I call the attention of the Prime Minister to the fact that this clause is permissive. It is permissible to this government to extend the limits of any province; it is not imperative. Neither is the second part of this section imperative; it is simply permissive; and if this resolution should pass without the amendment which has been moved by the hon. member for Colchester (Mr. Stanfield) I believe that the condition which is incorporated in it could not be considered by this parliament or by the legislatures of Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec in the final settlement of this matter. That condition reads as follows:

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.