

made by the Governor in Council in the Dominion of Canada when the British Parliament passes the Act we now ask them to agree to. In the case of Alberta the increase is to be made by the Parliament of Canada. The point I want to make is; why do you depart from that principle? We then adopted the principle that in giving the increase in the Senate it should be done with the sanction of the Parliament of Canada.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—For this reason; because Alberta and Saskatchewan were given four senators, which was to be increased to six after the next decennial census. It was done under the power given to us by the amendment of the British North America Act 1871, but that section said that, after that has been done no additional senators could be appointed. In the case of Manitoba, power was given by the legislation of 1870 up to four senators, two in the inception, three when the population was 50,000, and four when the population was 75,000, but it did not go farther. So that if we want to give to-day an additional number of senators to Manitoba, on what authority should we rely?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—On the next Imperial Act.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—That is, the one we are asking for.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—But I said His Honour the Speaker did not seize the point that my hon. friend to the left (Hon. Mr. Bostock) is making. The point is that the next Imperial Act, which we are now discussing, is not an enabling Act.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK—My point is that the increase should be brought about, not by Order in Council of the Government of Canada, but by an Act of the Parliament of Canada, and that in passing this clause the Act should provide for making this simply an enabling Act for the purpose of dealing with the question that way. I would like to hear from the leader of the Government why it was thought advisable to depart from that principle which was adopted in 1905 with regard to these two provinces; why it should not have been carried out in this case?

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—In precisely the same way as the original group was appointed. No more authority should be needed than was formerly given under the British North America Act as to the appointment of senators constituting the three groups, namely the group from

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Quebec, the group from the Maritime provinces, and the group from Ontario. Why should any distinction be drawn?

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK—When the original British North America Act is put through by the British Parliament, there was no Canadian Parliament to deal with the question, and it was therefore quite natural that the British Parliament should arrange that the appointment of senators should be made by Governor in Council. Now, since the Canadian Parliament is in existence, it was most proper that this question should be settled by an Act of the Parliament of Canada rather than by an Order in Council.

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE—The question is a very proper one, and the answer of the leader of the Government does not meet the point. There is this other consideration to be taken into account; this is providing for the maximum number of senators to be given to the several western provinces. The western group of provinces will be entitled under that to twenty-four members in the Senate. That is the maximum number, but the question is as to whether, when they should reach that maximum, it should be left to be settled by Parliament.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Except as to the province of British Columbia, Parliament has already expressed itself by enactment as to the other three provinces, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE—So long as there is one province not provided for, the question has not been settled. If the Bill is defective, I think it is defective in this: that it is sought to substitute for Parliament the action of the Lieutenant Governor in Council. It seems to me that it should be an enabling power that should be given to Parliament, and then Parliament in its discretion should decide when the several provinces would be entitled to the maximum number.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—The point which my hon. friend to the left, (Hon. Mr. Bostock) has made is one that I tried myself to make last evening. I wondered why this Act was not an enabling Act, instead of a clear-cut Act which will come into effect as a matter of course and will enable the appointment by Order in Council of the increased number of senators. I notice that to-day the West has 15 senators—Manitoba four, Sask-