

of the British North America Act guaranteeing the province of Quebec its undeniable right to have 65 members of the House of Commons in that province, whether there was 1,000,000,000 or 10,000,000 or 100,000,000 in the Dominion of Canada. That was the stable basis of Confederation. Then one of the next points made by the Fathers of Confederation was that certain questions should belong to the Federal jurisdiction, and certain other questions should come under provincial jurisdiction. That was a *sine qua non* put down by the Cartiers, put down by the Dorions, put down by all the able men of the province of Quebec, and by the able men of Ontario. These conditions have been fulfilled since 1867; conditions of birthright, civil right, of representation—in every branch of public life have these conditions been respected by the Confederation of that day, of four provinces coming into this Dominion. Then what do we find? We find British Columbia coming in on a material condition—a condition that a transcontinental railway should be built from Halifax to Vancouver. The Dominion has carried out that obligation, and has placed that far-away province of the union in harmony and in conjunction with the rest of the Dominion. Then we had Manitoba come in. Some say—and probably the question will be raised to-morrow—that Manitoba has violated one of the essential conditions under which that province came into the Dominion. I am not prepared to discuss that now. I may tell you that it was not the Federal power that violated it. And finally we have that little Island, the garden of the sea, not thoroughly populated, not much more so than the garden of Eden; but a finer spot of earth than that cannot be duplicated in the Dominion of Canada.

Hon. Mr. MURPHY—Or the continent of America.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—It is a spot of earth containing, at the time it came into Confederation, a sturdy population, a virtuous population, and I may say, probably the most intellectual population in the Dominion of Canada, for Prince Edward Island men are furnishing to-day the brains of the universe to the United States and other parts of the civilized world. Now the Prince Edward Island people were happy at home, they did not want any interference from anybody or with anybody; they did not want foreign laws to dominate their commerce—and by foreign laws, I mean

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the laws of New Brunswick, or Nova Scotia, or Quebec, or Ontario, that might affect their commerce. They were thriving well, they were rich and happy until the time they entered Confederation, under certain conditions. What has happened to that little spot of land that lies on the bosom of the Atlantic? The drawing of the island into the Dominion did not destroy the fertility of the soil, nor did it diminish the beauty of its aspect, lying there as a tranquil swan or dove on the bosom of that ocean; but what became of what every man considers the greatest obligation he has to fulfil, namely, respect for his rights and liberty? The Prince Edward Island people sacrificed these rights which had been used in the best interests of the community; they handed them over to the Dominion of Canada on the ground—and it was the only condition I think, which the island sought to obtain from the Federal power of Canada—"Gentlemen, we will go into your country, but upon condition that the representation of our population to-day, which numbers 100,000 or 105,000, will remain for ever and ever the same. No matter whether we grow to be 200,000 or 300,000 or a million of population, all we ask is that you give to the island six members in a Federal House of the Dominion of Canada." Now, to my mind there is no party question in this, there is no political question in it; there should not be, and there is not. The only thing that should absorb the mind of public men in dealing with this question is respect for the principles of justice, fair play, and common honesty. That is the only duty that this great Dominion of Canada has to perform towards that helpless little island. The island came in saying, "Yes, we will round up your Dominion, we will be a part of you, on condition that the representation we have to-day, six in number, should not be reduced and shall not be augmented." Now, where is the statesman who is going to cast aside an agreement of that kind, if he be honest, if he be fair, and if he be just? I care not how little the population of the island may become. It has dwindled from 105,000 down to 99,000 and 98,000, but a dwindling population does not change the nature of the contract and the principles which underlie it—those of honesty and fair play. There is no politics in that; there is no party spirit in it. After all what would six members count in a representation to-day even of 225, and ten years from this of three hundred members? But let Can-