

We find that Inter-Provincial Registration is dropped and that it is now proposed to form a Dominion Council which shall have power to issue on certain conditions a Dominion License. As this proposal is in accordance with the views which we expressed nearly three years ago, we naturally accord it our hearty endorsement.

With all of the details of the proposed Bill, however, we cannot agree. By Section 6 it is proposed that the Council shall consist of 24 members—three representing each of the seven Provinces, and three representing the Territories. Now it seems to us that this is unfair. Ontario and Quebec, with an approximate population of four millions, would have only six representatives, and the rest of the Dominion, with an approximate population of one and a half millions, would have eighteen representatives. We are strongly of opinion that any scheme likely to prove satisfactory and acceptable must be based on fairness and justice, and that any proposal to establish a Dominion Council which unduly favours any section of the country is inevitably doomed to failure. Desirous as we are of seeing a Dominion Council established, we trust that its permanency and efficiency will not be jeopardized by such a manifest injustice. We clearly recognize that the smaller Provinces, fearing that they would be controlled entirely by the two larger Provinces of Quebec and Ontario, if representation in the Council were based upon population solely, are justified in asking for a larger representation than they would be entitled to on the basis of population. We are prepared to grant them this larger representation, but not to the extent proposed in the Bill. This would throw the control of the Council into the hands of the smaller Provinces. In the one case we would have the greater controlling the smaller. According to the proposed Bill we will have the smaller controlling the larger. Neither state of affairs is desirable. On a basis of representation by population a council of 24 members would have its representatives allotted as follows:—Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia and the North-West Territories, each one; Quebec, seven; and Ontario, eleven. No one, we believe, would desire to insist on this composition of the Council, and yet such an arrangement would only give to Quebec and Ontario, the numeri-