

inces at Confederation it may be a precedent of which the West will take advantage when it has increased enormously in population. The West may bring pressure to bear on Parliament to secure another amendment to the Constitutional Act providing for an increase of their representation. I hear a suggestion that when that time comes we can adopt measures to protect ourselves. It is far better not to establish the precedent. I cannot believe that the province of Quebec, or any of the other provinces, would object to giving their sanction to this measure. But the provinces that were original parties to the compact should be given an opportunity to give their consent. I propose when we reach this clause to place myself on record. I am asked whether this point was discussed in the other House. I am not sure—I do not think it was.

Hon. Mr. PROWSE—Representation by population was all right for the provinces that accepted it, but Prince Edward Island came into the Confederation under an absolutely clear contract, and with the distinct understanding that she should have six representatives. The word readjustment was never intended to apply to the cutting down of the number of representatives of the island. I wish the House to understand that point—that Prince Edward Island did not come into the compact with the understanding that there would be representation by population in her case. She came in under a bargain, and if the late Government has violated that bargain in cutting down our numbers it is the duty of this Government to rectify that wrong.

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE—It is not necessary for me to take issue with what the hon. gentleman has said; it does not affect my point. It might affect my point if the provision were limited to Prince Edward Island, but it affects Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and possibly other provinces and, therefore, my point remains untouched.

On subclause 1 of the first clause.

(1) The number of senators provided for by section 21 of the British North America Act, 1867, is increased from seventy-two to ninety-six.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK—This subclause provides that the number of senators provided for by section 21 of the British North America Act of 1870 is increased from 72 to 96. I would like to point out to hon.

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gentleman that this is an increase of the present representation of the Senate.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—From 72.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK—And that on other occasions when this question of increasing the representation of the Senate has been provided for, it has been provided for in a different way from what this subsection proposes. Under this subsection they assume that as soon as the British Parliament passes this Act the increase in the Senate can be brought about by Order in Council of the Government of Canada, but on a former occasion, in fact I may say on two occasions, in regard to the Acts dealing with Alberta and Saskatchewan the clause was put in in this way. Clause 4 of the Act assented to on the 20th June, 1905, reads as follows:

The said province shall be represented in the Senate of Canada by four members provided that such representation may after the completion of the next decennial census be from time to time increased to six by the Parliament of Canada.

The increase in that case is to be dealt with by the Parliament of Canada and not by the Governor in Council.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—For what reason? Because when the constitution was given, by a law of Parliament, that provision was put in. We have no power, now having exhausted that power, to increase the representatives of the other provinces.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—The hon. gentleman does not see the point.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—I see the point very well. The hon. gentleman must not tell me I do not see the point.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—My impression judging by the hon. gentleman's answer was that he did not apprehend the point.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—I see the point. The hon. gentleman wants to impress upon us that in the case of Alberta and Saskatchewan we have provisions in our law to meet the case.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—That is not the point.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—And in this case why did we not do the same thing?

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK—I was trying to explain the position I wanted to place before the House in this matter. The address we are now considering provides that the increase in the number of senators may be