

Commons, and the Bill takes away representation from Prince Edward Island to which it is justly entitled. I defy contradiction on that point. I do not think a single hon. gentleman will rise here and defend the action in any way, or state that it is his thought or conviction that Prince Edward Island did not go into Confederation with the distinct understanding that it would have six members, and that six would be the minimum, not to be decreased in any way, for all time to come.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—I must express my dissent at such important legislation being brought down at the last hour of the session. We knew by an announcement from the Prime Minister in the other House, more than a month ago, that he intended to bring down such a resolution and, of course, we knew his intention of suing for an amendment to the British North America Act in order to form a group of 24 Senators for the West. But we did not know that, coupled with that demand, would be a resolution and demand for an amendment to the British North America Act which may have very important and wide reaching effects.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—May I interrupt my hon. friend? My information is that this is based upon a report of the Redistribution committee; I think I am correct in saying this. For that reason this measure has been withheld until the report of the Redistribution committee was brought down.

Hon. Mr. KERR—Could we see that?

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—I have not got it before me.

Hon. Mr. KERR—We have not got it before us, certainly.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—That is the case.

Hon. Mr. KERR—This is the first we have heard of it, and it is not before us.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—You have heard of it now.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—I take my hon. friend's word when he explains that this last clause has been added to the resolution, because it emanated from the Redistribution committee only a few days ago.

Hon. Mr. TAYLOR—Last night.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—But nevertheless, although it may be a happy solution of the complaint of Prince Edward Island, it seems to me that some action should have

preceded the introduction of this resolution. The hon. gentleman from Mille Îles has well said that the four old provinces came together and made a compact, and that compact was respected and carried through by the adoption of this British North America Act. It has been the general opinion of all statesmen who have gone before us, and of those of Confederation days who are still living, that no amendment of this constitution could be made without the sanction of the four provinces that came together and agreed upon the terms of this contract. The representatives of the provinces met last October and discussed this grievance of Prince Edward Island. I do not know under what form, what remedy was suggested to the Conference, or why it disagreed. It seems to me that if any remedy had been suggested in the terms of this amendment it would probably have carried; and I wonder if this amendment, which is sought, should not be adjourned until next session in order that the provinces be consulted.

Hon. Mr. MURPHY—Is the hon. gentleman voicing the feeling of the Province of Quebec as enunciated by Sir Lomer Gouin at the opening of the Quebec legislature?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—Did he declare that the Province of Quebec had objected to any change in the constitution?

Hon. Mr. MURPHY—Quite the contrary; he said the claim of Prince Edward Island was entitled to every consideration. Speaking personally and for the Province of Quebec he said he would like to see justice done to Prince Edward Island, and carry out the intent of the original framers of Confederation.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—I am happy to hear that, because I was just about to say that I would be favourable to the Legislature of Quebec agreeing to some kind of modification of the British North America Act in order to come to the rescue of the smallest province of the Dominion; but I contend that the four provinces that entered into that contract in 1864 should be officially consulted. If we go over their heads, direct to the Imperial Parliament, for an amendment to the British North America Act on this point, we will have established a precedent which will justify the legislators of the future, going direct from this Parliament to the Imperial Parliament without consulting