

ence, and was actually conceded, according to all the data that we can get of the conference at which we agreed to join the union. Strong representations have been made time after time for the last few years to the Government of Canada, both Liberal and Conservative, to put us in a position where we would not at least lose our provincial autonomy. When a province, as every province of this Confederation has done, or did when it joined the pact, surrenders its position of self-government, it surrenders a great deal, and the smaller the population of a province that surrenders that autonomy into the hands of the majority, the more it concedes. This is something that was not overlooked at the time of Confederation—with all deference to my hon. friend who leads the Opposition, I might for the information of himself and the House read to him how this was regarded in the province which cradled this great Confederation, which we all so much wanted to see. In 1864 as you will remember the first conference was held in Charlottetown. In the following October a meeting was held at Quebec, and at that time, when the relations of the provinces were apparent, so far as Confederation was concerned, here was what the leading men of that conference thought. In the words of the Hon. George Brown in 1864, at the first conference—and it will not be unknown to our friends opposite that he sacrificed or is supposed to have sacrificed something to bring about the consummation of what the larger minds then desired—this is how he regarded the condition of affairs as affected by these resolutions, showing conclusively that in the optimism of men at that time there was no thought of readjustment downwards; the whole thought, when the word readjustment was used, was that it would naturally be a readjustment upwards in the natural development of the country. Here is an excerpt from what Mr. Brown said in moving the resolutions with regard to this matter at that time:

The practical result will be that while Lower Canada certainly will not be less, and the lower provinces may increase in population, they cannot decrease in the number of their representatives.

That this was the intention of the framers of the Confederation pact. Hon. A. T. Galt, a man on the other side of politics, at the same time used in a speech at Sherbrooke on November 23, 1864, the following words:

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The House would never have less than 194 members.

Now it is practically manifest to hon. gentlemen opposite and to every hon. gentleman in this House—because this is not at all a party question, but one upon which everybody in my province is agreed, and nearly every premier to whom this question was submitted at the interprovincial conference agreed—that Prince Edward Island was an exception to the rule of the general provinces. Although the provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, the provinces of Quebec and Ontario, were the ones forming the original unit, Prince Edward Island was an exception in so far as Prince Edward Island was dealing with those four provinces as an integral part, and after staying six years out of the union, and refusing to accept the terms on the representation question, it felt and believed that it was getting the same concessions and the same terms as the province of British Columbia received the year before, when it got for representation a fixed minimum in the House of Commons of six members, though as a matter of fact it had only ten thousand of a white population, and a total population of forty thousand. As an elucidation of what was in the minds of the representatives at that time on this question I beg once more to read from the debates of the House of Assembly of Prince Edward Island, in the year succeeding the first conference held at Charlottetown, and subsequent to the time it was held in Quebec, records which I put on The Debates at the beginning of this session. These are extracts from the speeches of the leading men of the both sides of politics at that time.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—What year was that?

Hon. Mr. MURPHY—1864. Prince Edward Island refused to enter the union unless six representatives were conceded. The following extracts from speeches of our own delegates at the Quebec conference show definitely the reasons for standing out. There were no politics at that time; there were no men trying to take advantage of one another, as far as entering the union was concerned, because the union was an outside thing, and they were standing for domestic rights and the best arrangement of domestic concerns. Mr. Haviland, one of the Fathers of Confederation, as we see in the Railway Committee room of this House, said: