

Edward Island would have only its due number and not a number out of proportion to the rest of the country.

Mr. GRANT: That would be half a member.

Mr. BROOKS: I hope that the hon. member for Prince, who has just spoken, will bear these things in mind when he comes to cast his vote in a few days because, as I have said before, if the British North America Act can be amended without consultation with the different legislatures, we of the maritime provinces stand to lose more than any other province.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: It is time you did lose something.

Mr. BROOKS: If the provinces are not consulted a precedent will be established and the hon. member from British Columbia and hon. members from any other part of the country may laugh as much as they wish. We have lost much—

Mr. GRANT: This is not the first time the act has been amended.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order.

Mr. BROOKS: We have been reduced from forty to twenty-five members.

Mr. GRANT: This is not the first time it has been amended.

Mr. BROOKS: My hon. friend can make his speech, and if he does it will be the first except one he has made in this house in the ten years he has been here. We have sat here and listened to him clap his hands and pound his desk like a child and interrupt practically every member who has spoken, but he does not take the trouble to prepare a speech or rise and deliver one in the house.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: Or read it.

Mr. GRANT: I do not have to read it when I do rise to speak.

Mr. BROOKS: Nor do I. My time has practically expired. I do not intend to speak much longer to-night. As a matter of fact, I did not intend to speak as long as I have done, but I felt impelled to speak on behalf of the maritime provinces, and especially the province from which I come.

I should like to give a short quotation used in the speech delivered by the hon. member for St. John-Albert (Mr. Hazen), as reported at page 2268 of *Hansard* of June 6: He quoted section 52 of the British North America Act to emphasize the point which he made. Section 52 reads:

The number of members of the House of Commons may be from time to time increased by the parliament of Canada, provided the proportionate representation of the provinces prescribed by this act is not thereby disturbed.

We of New Brunswick have ten members out of 245 in the House of Commons. If this amendment is passed we shall have ten members out of 255 and, as the hon. member for St. John-Albert said the other day this section of the British North America Act will be violated because the proportionate representation of New Brunswick will be greatly disturbed. As I say, we have ten out of 245. Ten out of 255 is not the same proportion, and any hon. member who will take the time to consider it will see that that is a fact.

I wish to make this further statement. Last night one hon. member suggested that because I was speaking for my own province I was not a good Canadian. I have sat in this house and listened to practically every hon. member from Quebec who has spoken, and each has spoken almost entirely on the effect that this amendment would have on that province. I and no other member would suggest that, on that account, he was not a good Canadian. The same is true of hon. members from western Canada. They have all considered this matter almost entirely from the point of view of their own section of the country, and I contend that when I debate this question as it affects New Brunswick I am no less a Canadian than are those members from Quebec or from any other part of Canada.

Mr. THOMAS REID (New Westminster): In rising to take part in this debate, I quite realize that what I have to say will not be popular on this side of the house.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Do not worry.

Mr. REID: I wish to make it clear at the outset that I intend to vote against the resolution introduced by the Minister of Justice (Mr. St. Laurent). Following the remarks made by the speaker who has just taken his seat, let me make it clear that I am going to deal with the matter from the point of view of British Columbia, and I do not want any taunt hurled at me that I am not thinking as a Canadian. Let us be frank. There is not a man sitting in this house but must and does think provincially. Every hon. member here is thinking of his own constituency and of his own province. Why have accusations hurled across the floor that those who do are not Canadians? The man who does not think of this resolution in terms