

Government is entitled to every consideration at all times, and I am always disposed to support their measures unless my conscience or my judgment tells me that there are very serious grounds for taking the opposite course. I share the surprise expressed by the hon. member from Halifax at the position taken by the Government, not only in this instance but in many other instances. As the hon. gentleman has said, this is an address which does not properly belong to the House of Commons. It deals with representation in this House, not in the House of Commons, with the exception of the last paragraph; yet we are told that because the House of Commons has settled this matter peculiarly affecting the Senate in one way, it must be accepted by this House. I enter my protest against that, and whatever may become of the Redistribution Bill, I, for one, shall not assent to any such position. We are dealing with representation in the Senate, and it is our duty to be the judge of that, not the House of Commons. We cannot be told by the House of Commons that it is for that House to settle the matter. I protest another reason; this House is entitled to be heard before being told that unless we accept the address in its entirety the Government will not accept our action. It amounts to this, that before we are heard judgment is rendered; before we have had an opportunity to assign our reason for or against a measure the Government has decided that if the Senate moves at all, they will withdraw the measure.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—And withdraw another measure which is not before us yet.

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE—And in this instance withdraw another Bill. I hope the hon. member will reconsider his statement that the Government will not act as has been suggested. As stated by the hon. member from De Lorimier, the House of Commons in dealing with its own representation deemed it advisable to provide that the increased representation should only take effect after the dissolution of Parliament. Will it be suggested that that is not an example which the Senate should follow? I hope the hon. leader of the House will reconsider the statement he has made, and that the Government will understand that the Senate is acting within its own sphere in dealing with this resolution.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—I do not deny for one moment the right of the Senate to

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deal with this Bill; I have never denied that right. But this is peculiarly a measure that was in a sense coupled with the Redistribution Bill. It embodies certain recommendations made by the Redistribution Committee—unanimously made by that committee.

Hon. Mr. WATSON—Only in regard to Prince Edward Island.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—It is a constitutional amendment which I am informed was agreed upon between Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the leader of the Liberal party, and the Prime Minister.

Hon. Mr. WATSON—What is that agreement?

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—That these resolutions would be accepted by the Senate—

Hon. Mr. POWER—Sir Wilfrid Laurier has no right to speak for the Senate.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—I was about to say that. I do not say for a moment that the leader of the Liberal party in the other House would have a right to speak for the Senate in a matter of this kind; but it would not be unusual for the two leaders of the two parties to have an agreement as to what should be embodied in an important constitutional amendment like this before us; furthermore, it is a matter upon which the discretion of the Government should be exercised as to when they should make those appointments. There can be no denial as to the right of those provinces to the additional representation which these resolutions propose to give to those provinces.

Hon. Mr. POWER—In both Houses?

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—And it is therefore but reasonable that that discretion should be vested in the Government. Of course, it is in the hands of hon. gentlemen to say what they will do.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—I want to take exception to and challenge the statement of the leader of the Government. He has stated here that the leader of the Liberal party in the Dominion of Canada, and now leader in the House of Commons, is prepared to allow the Government to proceed with increased senatorial representation ahead of popular representation. I challenge that statement. The leader of the Liberal party, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, never made any such concession to Mr. Borden or anybody else, and he could not do it; if he