

lation of 50,000 souls, and from thenceforth it shall be represented by three members until it shall have according to the decennial census a population of 75,000 souls, and from thenceforth it shall be represented by four members.

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE—I do not see that there can be any doubt.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—Not further than four members.

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE—Not further than four members. The object of this resolution is to have six members, therefore there can be no doubt that this Parliament can not have any more power as regards Manitoba than as regards British Columbia to increase the number from four to six. This is the only thing that I intend to say on that point. It is perfectly clear that there cannot be any doubt whatever that Parliament has no right whatever to provide for an increase in the number of senators from the province of Manitoba from four to six; and it is admitted that, as regards British Columbia, this Parliament has also no power whatever to provide for an increase of the number of the members of the Senate. Another point to which I wish to draw the attention of this honourable House is that to which my hon. friend the member from Mille Iles and the member from De Lorimier directed attention. It is in connection with the last paragraph of these resolutions, which states that:

Notwithstanding anything in this Act (that is, the British North America Act of 1867) a province shall always be entitled to a number of members in the House of Commons not less than the number of senators representing such province.

This may be considered as a matter of small consequence, and to a certain extent it may be looked on as an act of justice to the province of Prince Edward Island. It may even be claimed that if at the time of the passing of the British North America Act it had been anticipated what is taking place now on account of the census, that their representation would be diminished, provision might have been inserted in the compact to guard against that; and I would not like to be understood as begrudging the right they are claiming, but where I am considerably exercised is when I reflect on the consequences of our doing this without the consent of the provinces who were parties to the contract, because it is a clear violation of the compact in both

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE.

cases. When the several provinces in 1867 agreed to come into Confederation, they did so upon a clear provision that the representation of the province of Quebec would for all time be limited to 65, and that the other provinces would be entitled to a representation based on the representation of the province of Quebec. I was just commencing to take an interest in politics at that time, and I remember the very strong campaign which was made by the Liberal party at the time, and in which campaign a number of Conservatives joined, against that provision of the British North America Act. It was considered by a large portion of the population of Quebec that that province was sacrificed. It was not expected at that time that the population in the province of Quebec would increase very much, and it was anticipated that the representation of the other provinces would go on increasing for all time, while the province of Quebec would remain stationary with sixty-five members, and that therefore injustice would be done to the province of Quebec. Well, happily in this as in other respects the province of Quebec has been protected by Providence.

Hon. Mr. DAVID—To a certain extent.

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE—Its population, instead of remaining stationary, has considerably increased, and we hope that it will go on increasing more and more. The province is being developed in such a way that it will very soon be second to no other in the Dominion, and instead of working to the detriment of the province of Quebec this morning this provision has worked to its advantage.

Hon. Mr. DAVID—To some extent.

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE—It has worked to its advantage—well, to some extent. If the principle involved was merely that of coming to the relief of Prince Edward Island, or even of some other of the provinces as regards preventing the number of their representation from being reduced to less than the number of senators, I would not raise my voice at all. But what I am afraid of is the precedent that we are creating by consenting to anything of the kind. It seems to me that the consent of the provinces should be obtained before the change is made, because if this Parliament undertakes to interfere with the contract made by the several prov-