

eration. I cannot concur in the view that this Dominion is not capable, and is not prepared to incur the expense, of looking after the timber and other natural resources in that vast territory, at least until we know something more about it than what is before the House.

Mr. G. W. FOWLER (King's, N.B.). I cannot allow this resolution to pass without raising my voice in protest, as representing a constituency in the maritime provinces, against this very large addition of territory to the province of Quebec. Quebec, as we know, forms the unit of representation, and if an addition is made to the territory of the province of Quebec it will no doubt have an effect upon the representation from the other provinces. In the provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island we have suffered with respect to this matter already. It is impossible for us, owing to our geographical position, to have any territory added to our provinces, while the other provinces, these large western provinces, are getting additional accessions of territory. Of course this view of the question is not so important to the other provinces as it is to the lower provinces. If a provision were made that the maritime provinces should have restored to them the same representation that they had at the time they entered confederation, I would be satisfied to see an addition of territory made to these other provinces. But as it is, I must protest as a member from the maritime provinces, against any addition to the territory of Quebec unless provision is made to restore to the maritime provinces the representation which they had when they entered confederation.

Hon. W. S. FIELDING (Minister of Finance). I think it would not be well to assume that this addition to the territory of the province of Quebec will necessarily place the maritime provinces at any disadvantage. There is a question in regard to that matter which I take it for granted is still at large. When the moment comes for dealing with this matter more definitely, and in a legislative form, that question should certainly be considered. We in the maritime provinces, cannot get any addition to our territory, as my hon. friend has well said. The difficulty then that occurs to the people of the maritime provinces is this: The population of Quebec establishes the unit of representation for the whole Dominion. Now if there should be a large increase of population in the new territory of Ungava, and that population were included in the population of the province of Quebec in establishing the unit of representation, that unit would necessarily become much larger, and that unit, applied to the small provinces, might lead to a further diminution of their representation that would be regarded as a very serious matter. That is a difficult

point to deal with. I do not wish to do more to-day than to say that I regard that as an open question. One way in which I hope it might be dealt with would be that the unit should be established upon the basis of the population of Quebec as it now exists, and that for any additional population that might come from this territory of Ungava, Quebec should receive additional representation, in other words, it would lead to some enlargement of the total representation. But even though the maritime provinces would still have their proportion, if the effect of that enlarged territory of Quebec would be that they suffered a further diminution in their representation, even though mathematically you might say they still retained their proportion, I think it would undoubtedly lead to much dissatisfaction and discontent.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I do not exactly understand the hon. gentleman's proposal. How would you deal in that case with the additional population within the present area of the province of Quebec, because you could not allow that to go unrepresented?

Mr. FIELDING. Whatever the population is within the present area of Quebec, would of course be the basis establishing the unit for the whole Dominion. It was contended by the representatives from the maritime provinces, when this question came up at an earlier period, that the province of Quebec had already received an enlargement of its territory. The answer to that was that there was no enlargement, but merely a definition of a territory previously established.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I think I misunderstood the hon. gentleman. He said the present population of the province of Quebec. He meant, I presume, the population within the present area of the province of Quebec.

Mr. FIELDING. Quite so. If I said that I did not correctly express what was in my mind. I mean the population of Quebec as it might be from time to time within the territorial limits of the province as now established, and that would necessarily involve that for the population coming into that new territory Quebec would have to have additional representation; so that she would never lose the proportion as it now stands. Hon. gentlemen will see that if the population of Quebec were to increase very largely throughout this augmentation of territory, and if the unit of representation were thus made larger, and if the population of the maritime provinces increased but little, the effect would be that while mathematically we would still have that proportion which the constitution establishes, it might be that the maritime provinces would suffer some further diminution of representation. Take the case of Prince Ed-