

have seen fit to reduce the House of Commons representation. Why did they not take the same action in regard to the senatorial representation? Who will answer that question? If the Government of Canada and the Parliament of Canada had the right during the past twenty years to reduce the popular representation in the House of Commons, they had an equal right to reduce the senatorial representation in this House. Does not the position strike the hon. gentleman as strange? Does it not strike the hon. members as unfair? They take away from the people their popular representatives but the Government of the day leave the senatorial representation unchallenged. That is not fair to a free people. They take away their popular representatives, and leave in Parliament representatives who do not represent them. Such representatives are appointed by the Government in power. To my mind the situation is one that demands the most serious consideration of this Parliament, which consideration it will not get; but when it is brought to the attention of the Imperial Parliament, where men attend to business and weigh their words and their votes, I have no doubt that if Senator Murphy would appear before the committee of the Imperial Parliament which will deal with this matter he would be heard and would win his cause. That is the difference between the Canadian Parliament and the Imperial Parliament—I have not the slightest hesitation in saying that if the matter were properly laid before a committee of the Imperial Parliament, the island would have its original representation restored. I have every admiration for the hon. member from Tignish for demanding that the Parliament of Canada respect the contract made between his province and the Dominion. He has put his case in such a way as to convince me, against my principle that representation should be based upon population, because he has shown that the contract called for a minimum representation, and that contract must be respected, especially when it has been construed against the little province. Prince Edward Island would never have entered the union if it had not been granted the two conditions, senatorial representation to the number of four, and representation in the House of Commons to the number of six. Evidence of that fact is there in the official document. The Dominion has no moral right to set aside that agreement; the contract is there and should be respec-

Hon. Mr. CLORAN.

ted. I am satisfied that if Prince Edward Island will lay its case before the Imperial Parliament measures will be taken to safeguard its rights.

Hon. Mr. PROWSE—This measure has been brought in during the closing hours of the session, and we did not have it before us until about half-past eight tonight. The Bill was published in the Ottawa Citizen to-day—I do not know where they got it—but I did not get a copy of it. I feel that this matter as to Prince Edward Island should have been brought in separately. Prince Edward Island went into Confederation six years later than the other provinces, and as usual it had to give way, being a small province, to the bigger provinces of the West. The first part of the Bill provides for larger representation for the West and smaller for the East. I do not consider that fair. It has always been the same, though we give our best blood and population to the West. There is not a man on either this side or the other who is not convinced that Prince Edward Island came into Confederation with two solemn compacts. One was that we were to have continuous communication with the mainland, the same as they have it on the mainland, and the other was that we should have six House of Commons representatives. We held out for six years, before we got that contract signed. Arguments have been produced from time to time, both in this and the other House, and I could occupy an hour or two in citing documents and evidence and speeches by different members in the other House, but that is unnecessary, as you have all read them before, and if not, you have not studied the necessary books. The Premier of Prince Edward Island and some of his colleagues, who happened to be on the opposite side of politics from myself, have studied out this matter and brought out arguments in documents which were placed on the tables of members of the lower House, and also furnished to the committee. The committee has worked hard, but Prince Edward Island was not represented on that committee of thirteen members which I consider was unjust to that province. I regret that it will be necessary for me to oppose this Bill, because it embodies a larger representation to the West, though I will not say it is larger than the West is entitled to, but it is giving the West representation before we have an election, before it is represented in the