

be so increased by the influx of the tide of immigration that the Island would lose in the halls of legislation even the small voice which she might raise at her entrance in to the union." (Debates P.E.I. Legislature, 1865, p. 45, et seq.)

Honourable Mr. Hensley:

"The terms of the report before us are, in my opinion, very unfavourable to this Island. On the scale of representation proposed, we would be without the slightest influence in the United Parliament. It is true that, if we went into the proposed Union, we would have no right to expect as large a number of representatives as either of the Lower Provinces, but then why should we throw away the independence which we now enjoy?" (Debates P.E.I. Legislature, 1865, p. 50 et seq.)

Mr. Howlan:

"Representation by population might be very well for Canada herself, but in a general Union of the Colonies, it would operate injuriously for the Maritime Provinces, as they could not expect to protect their interests when they would have to contend with one hundred of a clear majority over their own representation. This principle would give the city of Montreal with its one hundred thousand inhabitants one representative more than this Island. Quite different is the representation of Great Britain, for while London has about the same population as Scotland, that city has only sixteen members in the House of Commons, while Scotland has fifty-three. But it may be argued that as our population increases our representation will increase. This is very doubtful. Indeed, under the operation of the 20th and 21st clauses of the report it seems probable that we might lose our representation altogether. Lower Canada is always to have sixty-five members, and the representation of the other Colonies is to be arranged every ten years so as to give each the same ratio to population as she will then possess. Now should the population of Lower Canada increase more rapidly than that of this Island, which is almost certain to be the case, our representation would decrease, and we would be left perhaps without a member at all."

Mr. Duncan:

"As to the General Legislature I consider the representation in it allowed to this Island unfair and unjust. The five representatives allotted to us in the Lower House would not give the Colony much influence there; but as our population will not increase so rapidly as that of Canada, there is a prospect, through the operation of one clause in the report, that our five representatives would dwindle down to three. Taking all these points into consideration, therefore, it is clear to me that we have nothing to gain and much to lose by adopting the Quebec scheme." (Debates P.E.I. Legislature, 1865, p. 65, et seq.)

The above extracts represent the attitude of both political parties in the province at that time.

The Canadian Government continued desirous to round off Confederation with the addition of Prince Edward Island, but no definite progress was made until the year 1873 when that Government at last conceded six members as the following correspondence shows:

Telegram from Robert P. Haythorne to Lieutenant-Governor Robinson, dated February 26, 1873:

"Held two conferences. Increase of annual allowance. Probable yield six representatives."

Telegram from Robert P. Haythorne to Lieutenant-Governor Robinson, March 6, 1873:

Hon. Mr. PROWSE.

"Highly probable get six representatives; try and send reply Council as soon as possible."

Telegram from Lieutenant-Governor Robinson to Robert P. Haythorne:

"Council will concur in advising dissolution. We hope six representatives will be conceded."

Telegram to the Honourable Edward Palmer from Robert Haythorne, March 6, 1873:

"Except modifications stated and interest difference old debt, better terms allowed. Six members conceded."

First Ground.

That we were to have a minimum representation of six is made clear enough from the evidence and facts above submitted. By some oversight or mistake the memorandum embodying the terms did not in clear and unequivocal language provide for such. That, however, was the joint mistake of both contracting parties and a mutual mistake should never be held to be binding. Had there been more care shown at that time in seeing that the understanding for a minimum representation of six had been clearly placed in the agreement, no one would have made the least objection. We are simply asking now that the mistake then made be corrected.

Second ground.

The decline in the population of this province was owing in some degree to the failure of Canada to carry out its contract to place "the Island in continuous communication with the railway system of the Dominion."

Prior to Confederation, this Island had a well established commerce directly with Great Britain, the West Indies and other lands, and had a very small proportion of its commerce with the colonies now comprised in Canada. By entering the union the direction and control of its commerce and industrial development were delivered over to Canada; the independent lines of trade which the Island had established were diverted to Canadian channels and continuous communication with the mainland as a consequence became essential to its welfare.

Canada defaulted on its contract.—It is unnecessary to set forth in detail the extent of this default. It was admitted in 1901 when the Dominion agreed to pay annually to this province the sum of thirty thousand dollars "for non-fulfilment of the terms of union as respects the maintenance of efficient steam communication both summer and winter between the Island and the mainland."

The utter inadequacy of this allowance need not be considered in this connection. The point is that the breach of contract was admitted by Canada.

Prior to Confederation this Island was doubling its population every thirty years; its revenues were doubling every twelve years. In 1841, its population was 47,034; in 1871—the last census before Confederation—it was 94,021. At a steadily diminishing ratio of increase it reached 109,078 in 1891 and then declined rapidly to 93,722 in 1911.

If the pro-Confederation ratio of increase had been maintained the population would now be 219,000.

In the neighbouring colony of Newfoundland, in which the natural advantages were much less and where ratio of increase had always been much lower, the population increased from 161,374 in 1874 when its census was taken, to