

resolutions were unanimously agreed to in the House, not only between the two leaders, but between the two parties in the House of Commons, and it was thought there that they should be coupled in that way, I shall not occupy further time in saying that the Government in my opinion should insist upon having these resolutions adopted in their entirety before submitting to this House the Redistribution Bill.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK—One of the reasons for moving this amendment is that in the original British North America Act, subsection 5 of section 51 reads as follows:—

Such readjustment shall not take effect until the termination of the then existing Parliament.

That amendment is on all fours with this subsection of clause 51, and that is a matter entirely dealing with the internal domestic status of the Senate. It is very desirable that an amendment of this kind should be made to the address.

Hon. Mr. POWER—I am a little surprised at the attitude assumed by the leader of the Government. He appears to think that this House should not meddle with this address. Inasmuch as the address deals with the Senate and not with the other House, it seems to me, that properly speaking it should have been introduced in the Senate. However it was introduced in the other House and comes to us and now we are told that if we undertake to amend it, no matter how reasonable that amendment may be, the Redistribution Bill, which is a very important measure and which the members of the Commons and the Government are very much interested in, should be dropped. The hon. gentleman has on more than one occasion thought that the Senate were acting wrongly and were influenced by partisan spirit, but in nearly every instance experience has shown that the Senate was right. A little reflection would convince him that the Senate is right now. What does the amendment proposed by the hon. leader of the Opposition really mean? It means that until a general election has been held—

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—Dissolution of Parliament.

Hon. Mr. POWER—Does not that mean an election? It generally does. It means that until the present Parliament is dissolved this large addition should not be made to the members of the Senate. That

is a reasonable proposition. Why should additional members be brought into the Senate before additional members have been brought into the House of Commons? It is much more important that the additional representation to the popular body should go into effect than that the representation in this House should be increased. I should like to see both measures go through, but I repeat I am surprised at the attitude assumed by the hon. leader of the Government.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—I hold in my hand the Redistribution Bill, which affects the House of Commons. This House would not think of touching this Bill unless there was such a gross violation of all principles of justice that it became necessary. Now this is the law which the House of Commons has adopted for its self. The last clause provides that 'this Act should take effect only on the dissolution of the present Parliament.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—It could not take effect before that.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—It could if there were not the restrictions imposed by the British North America Act. It might affect by-elections, and after a new Parliament is elected there are many by-elections. If the redistribution increasing the representation in the House of Commons is only to take effect after dissolution, has not the Senate power to declare that the projected increase of its numbers should likewise occur only after the dissolution of the present Parliament. I suppose no one will deny the right of the Senate to prescribe such a condition. My hon. friend says if any amendment is made to this resolution the Government will not bring down its Redistribution Bill. I am quite convinced that my hon. friend was referring to material amendments which would disorganize the policy laid down by the Government in this resolution, but there is nothing which affects the condition that will govern this Chamber in the future. There is simply a declaration that this Act should only come into force, as in the case of the redistribution in the House of Commons after the dissolution of Parliament. For these reasons I see no reason why the House should hesitate to pass such a regular and inoffensive amendment.

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE—I always hesitate to oppose Government measures. The