

what was said by the hon. member for Kindsley, I do not think the other place should be abolished. I believe it is most important that we have the other place. If it is desired to establish a retiring age limit there, or something of the sort, that would be a different matter, but it serves a very useful purpose—increasingly so, as I think has been obvious during the last two sessions.

I am not going to deal with this matter at length, but I did want the people of my constituency to know how I felt about it. I am sure they feel the same way. They realize that if this resolution goes through and the amendment is passed by the imperial parliament, Nova Scotia will gain one seat and the membership of this house will be increased, and certainly we need that increased membership. I do not know about other hon. members, but it takes me some weeks to get around my constituency. To do it properly I have to cover a part of it by boat, and it takes a long time to get around. I feel that I am here as a representative of my people, and that I should go and see those people. I did my best last year, but I was not able to get around; and this year it looks as though I will not be getting home until September. However, if things are speeded up I may be able to get around this year, with some luck. I do not believe we should cut down our membership at all, if the people are to be properly represented. It is of no use to compare our membership with that of the parliament of the United Kingdom. The areas which have to be covered are small. This is a vast territory, and we should not reduce our membership; if anything we should increase it.

I have been watching the press from the maritime provinces, but in the editorials I have read I have not seen evidence of any great objection to the principle of the redistribution bill. They say chiefly that there should be some alteration in the process of voting, some having a preference for the alternative vote. But they have not objected on constitutional grounds, so far as this resolution is concerned. Therefore I do not believe they are opposed to it; on the contrary they recognize it is a proper procedure.

In the light of what I have said, and what has been said by the Minister of Agriculture and other hon. members who have spoken with reference to the maritime provinces, I hope all hon. members from that part of Canada will back the resolution. It is not only in their interests but in the interests of Canada as a whole that they do so.

Mr. W. CHESTER S. McLURE (Queens): Mr. Speaker, in rising to take part in the debate after so many lawyers have expressed their opinions and read their speeches respecting the law in the matter, an ordinary layman must speak with extreme care. Let me say at once that I am not a lawyer or the son of a lawyer, lest, before I conclude what I have to say, some hon. members may say about me what I have heard said about some lawyers—"God forbid that that fellow should defend me in a serious case".

I take part in the debate, fully conscious of the fact, as indeed have been most hon. members, that this is one of the most important debates we shall have this session. On most occasions we deal with matters of local concern, while on this we deal with one which dates back to the birth of our nation. It is a matter of vital importance to national unity and to the future of our dominion. It is important therefore that we understand clearly what it means, and that we should not allow politics to warp our judgment. It is my intention to deal with the matter briefly, from the Canadian point of view; but, like most other hon. members, I shall deal particularly with my province.

Time does not permit my discussing the speeches of hon. members who have preceded me, but I feel I must refer briefly to the remarks of one able debater who spoke a few nights ago. I refer to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner), who in his observations made specific reference to the maritime provinces. I am sorry the minister is not in his seat, because he told a story of having travelled around the maritime provinces, and that all he found being manufactured was coffins. I do not know whether he told it as a joke or as a slur against the maritimes. However, I shall accept it as a joke and in reply tell a story about his province. It is told—no doubt the Minister of Agriculture has heard it—that there were two Scotsmen, Donald and Sandy, who met on a street in Chicago. Donald said to Sandy, "Guid morning, Sandy; why are you so depressed and sad looking?" "Ah weel," replied Sandy, "I've had great sorrow. My brother died in Lemberg"—or Limburger, or Limbo, or whatever it was—"Saskatchewan." The other Scotsman said, "That's nae worry tae what I have. My brother is still living there."

I am not going to attempt to depreciate any province of this great dominion; but if I have any bouquets to throw, I shall throw them to my own province. Introducing the resolution on May 28 the Minister of Justice (Mr. St.