

once, and I would be insulting his intelligence to say he did not understand me.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—If the hon. gentleman from Tignish will allow me I will extend to him my most hearty congratulations on his manly and able defence of the rights of the province of Prince Edward Island. He has put them before the Senate, which does not amount to much, but he has put them through the Senate, and so before the people of the country; and he has put them through the Senate—which is sometimes dormant, sometimes absent, and sometimes on strike, and has got his views before the people of Canada, and I am glad to know, before the people of his own province. His defence is a manly defence—manly, because it is opposed to the policy of the Government; he is a member of the Conservative party, a supporter of the Government, still his objection is more or less in contradiction, in supplementing what is not in the Bill. He has had the courage to do that, and that is manly. He has done it not only once; he has done it before. The hon. senator also has made an able defence, and to my mind an unimpeachable defence of that little island that came into Confederation under one condition. And what was the condition; the condition was that the island shall have four senators in the upper Chamber, and jointly with that that the island would have six members in the House of Commons. That is to my mind as clear as any public document could make it clear. You have got the official messages between the Governor of the Island and the Prime Minister of the Island in regard to that matter, that no matter whether there were one hundred thousand or ten thousand, the island was to be entitled to representation in this upper House to four members and in the lower House to six members. That was a provision in the contract and part of the pact under which the island entered Confederation. What right have we to disturb it? What right had the Parliaments of the past to disturb that; whether the island had a population of 100,000 or 50,000 or 10,000? The agreement and condition under which they came into Confederation was that they were to have four senators and six members of Parliament. What has happened? The Government of the past has reduced the House of Commons membership from six to five, from five to four, and four to three. I say that if this matter was appealed to the Privy Council, with

the documents the hon. gentleman has read here, and the documents that can be produced, they would declare that legislation to be ultra vires, and in violation of a solemn contract—a solemn pact between one province and the federal Parliament.

Hon. Mr. MURPHY—I may say the matter was appealed to the Privy Council and their decision was against us, from the fact that they joined our case with the whole of the Maritime province case, and therefore weakened our case. The hon. gentleman may have heard the member who moved the address in the House of Commons this year, Col. McLeod, of York, saying that the case of Prince Edward Island was exceptional and that we should have our representation restored.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—The remarks of the hon. gentleman from Tignish are absolutely apt to the situation. He has done his duty in calling the attention of the House, the country and the Government to the fact that the solemn pact entered into between the island and the Canadian federation has been violated by the same Government and Parliament of Canada. I say that is not right, and when I say the matter should be appealed to the Privy Council, they informed me it was, and it was lost because it was taken jointly with the other provinces. I have no doubt about that, but I feel from a legal point of view that if the province went to the Privy Council and put before the Privy Council the statements the hon. gentleman has made, backed by official documents of this country, that there is no lawyer in England that would not say to the provinces, 'You have rights and they have been violated by your federal Government and we will restore them.' Under these circumstances I say that all that the hon. gentleman from Tignish has said has full weight with me in regard to the matter. I believe in representation by population according to numbers, but I believe also that the terms of a contract should be sacred and not violated by a superior party to the contract—that is what has taken place in the present case. The terms of the contract are violated by the federal power against the poor little island and it is not to the credit of any Government, Liberal or Conservative, to put their heel on a contract of that kind. They would never have come into Confederation except on the understanding that they were to have four senators and six members. What has happened during the last twenty years? The population has gone down. Both parties