

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE—Always maintaining the same proportion. Instead of giving 24 members to each group, it should be reduced to 20 members, so that there would be in all 80 members.

The clause was adopted.

On subclause 2 of clause 5:

2. The British North America Act, 1867, is amended by adding thereto the following section immediately after section 51 of the said Act:

(51 A) Notwithstanding anything in this Act a province shall always be entitled to a number of members in the House of Commons not less than the number of senators representing such province.

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE—I desire to offer an amendment to this clause by adding the following:

This provision shall not take effect until the consent of the legislatures of the several provinces has been obtained.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Without entering into any argument on the subject, I would point out to my hon. friend that the other provinces are not parties to the compact as between the federal authority and the province of Prince Edward Island. What my hon. friend has said might well apply to the original provinces, namely, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE—I have no objection to limit it in that way.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—It seems to me that it is practically a matter between Prince Edward Island and the Dominion of Canada.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK—It does not say so in this.

Hon. Mr. POWER—Probably the hon. gentleman from De Salaberry may be, in a sense, right, but there is no doubt that the case of Prince Edward Island is an exceptional one, and every member of this House and every one who is interested in the country has noticed with regret the falling off of the representation in Prince Edward Island in the Commons. Now the gentleman who speaks on behalf of Prince Edward Island says that this was owing to some clerical error at the time Prince Edward Island entered the union. Prince Edward Island is to have only four senators. If this clause were likely to have any effect outside Prince Edward Island it might be a different thing, but really I think it is such a small infringement of the British North America Act that we had better let it pass.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK—It is general.

Hon. Mr. POWER—Well, we are not going ahead as fast in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia as we might wish. However, the day is far distant when the representation of either of these provinces will be reduced below ten. That is the number of senators to which each province is entitled, so that I feel that really the only provinces as to which this provision has any practical effect is Prince Edward Island, and I do not feel like raising a question as to that.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—It is not a proper thing that the number of representatives in an appointed House should exceed the number of representatives in the popular Chamber.

The committee divided on the amendment, which was rejected.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK—We have made considerable progress with this measure and I would ask the hon. leader of the Government whether, in view of the fact that we have not yet received the Redistribution Bill, that we should rise, report progress and ask leave to sit again.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—I was about to propose that we send a message to the Commons that we concur in the resolutions, and I am quite willing my hon. friend should move an amendment that the address should not be sent down to the Commons until Redistribution comes up.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK—I understand my hon. friend is not prepared to agree to the motion that the committee should now rise and report progress.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—I think we should dispose of the business as far as we can. I have given every assurance to my hon. friend that Redistribution will be brought down. I understand it will be here before twelve o'clock.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK—I desire to move that the following be added to this resolution as clause 3:—

That this Act shall not take effect until the termination of the now existing Parliament.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—If my hon. friend persists in that motion and it should be carried the Government will not accept it, nor should the Government in my judgment bring down the Redistribution Bill. I might as well say that candidly. I am not denying one moment the power of this Chamber to deal with this matter, these