

gram at the conclusion of the debates by Mr. Hawthorne, who was Premier of the province at the time, and chief representative of the Prince Edward Island's side of the case. This was addressed to the then Colonial Governor of the province and speaks for itself. The last telegrams, at the conclusion of the four parlers were as follows:

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

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

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 Hon. Edward Palmer from Robt. P. Haythorne, March 6, 1873:

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

What could be fairer than that? There can be no doubt about the honesty of our case. There is a telegram after negotiations were completed from the responsible minister of the province at the time, to the governor of our province, and it shows clearly that the intention was, whatever was written in the contract, that we, like British Columbia, should have an irreducible minimum. Let us see how we are situated to-day as compared with what we were in 1873 when we entered Confederation. At that time we had six representatives in the House of 189 or a ratio of one-thirtieth of the House. As it stands to-day, if we do not get some relief we will have three in a House of 234 or one-seventy-eight, so that you will see the difficulty under which we are labouring. The worse feature is that, looking into the future, we can see no hope. We may live in hope and die in despair. We see no hope for the province, except legislation by this branch of Parliament, and by the House of Commons as a co-ordinate branch, asking relief. I have no doubt if that relief is asked, and the proper step taken, as I hope there will be before this Parliament closes, such relief will come, and we will not be in the humiliating position of having a further reduction of one, and of coming back with only three members of the House of Commons when we meet next session.

Hon. Mr. MURPHY.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—If my hon. friend should insist upon submitting his motion to vote of the House, I should like to point out the objections that may be urged to the proceeding which he is about to take, and to show him where it would not be desirable on the part of this Chamber to adopt this motion. There is one thing that may be said before dealing with the question before us, and that is to say that hon. gentlemen from Prince Edward Island are not only to be commended, but to be congratulated upon the persistency which characterizes their efforts in presenting to the Parliament of Canada the various claims of Prince Edward Island. This is meritorious. One cannot take any exception to it whatsoever, but persistency may not always be wisely exercised. It must not be overlooked that we are dealing with a very serious subject. We propose to approach the Imperial Parliament upon a subject not only affecting Prince Edward Island, but affecting the whole Dominion. This address or this motion makes emphatic a statement that in 1873 when the terms of union were being discussed between Prince Edward Island and the Dominion of Canada a very grave and serious mistake entered into the arrangement which was then concluded in the shape of a pact or terms of union between that province and the Dominion of Canada, and duly reduced into Imperial legislation. Now we are asked upon the statement which the hon. gentleman has made to say that this mistake then took place, viz., that Prince Edward Island was then entitled, under the agreed terms of union, to be represented by an irreducible minimum of six members.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—It was only a clerical error.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—This Chamber should not be asked in this way to commit itself after some forty odd years to the statement that that mistake did actually occur. It must not be overlooked, with all due regard to the persistency which has marked the action taken by Prince Edward Island down to the present, that we and they adopted the present terms of the Union at that time. The representatives of Prince Edward Island were present, I believe, at the Imperial Parliament when the legislation was then passed by that Parliament. They entered into Confederation under the manifest terms which then