

other three groups. Consequently no question can possibly arise as to the number proposed in this legislation. There is a further provision in the proposed legislation by which the number mentioned in section 26 of the British North America Act has been increased from three to four, and from six to eight. As it is now, the imperial authorities can, under certain conditions, give authority to the Dominion of Canada to appoint three or six senators as the case may be. It is proposed to increase that three to four, and six to eight. This clause of the British North America Act may be said to be inoperative; it has never been invoked except upon one occasion, in 1875, I think, during the Government of the late Mr. Mackenzie.

Hon. Mr. POWER—In 1877, I think.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—In 1877, but the conditions did not apparently warrant the imperial authorities in consenting to the representations which were then made by the Government of Canada, and except on that occasion, this provision has remained a dead letter on the statute-book.

Hon. Mr. POWER—The address was not concurred in by the Senate; that was one of the difficulties at that time.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—I have not looked into that. My hon. friend will of course recall what the circumstances were.

Hon. Mr. POWER—Yes, I was here; the Senate did not concur.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—We propose also making further provision, as will be found in the last section of the Act, which reads as follows:

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 provinces.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—That is for the Island?

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—This will of course apply peculiarly to Prince Edward Island. We have a peculiar anomaly, if I may so term it, of the province of Prince Edward Island being represented, or from now on it will be represented, by a larger representation in this Chamber than it will have in the House of Commons. Owing to the increase in the unit of the population of Quebec, and the non-increase of population in some of the Maritime provinces, notably

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED.

in the province of Prince Edward Island, that province is unfortunately gradually losing its representation. When that province entered into Confederation, unfortunately proper attention does not seem to have been given to due provision being made for the fixity of its representation, in case its population should not have grown relatively with the growth of the unit in Quebec. It is therefore proposed that at no time shall the representation in the House of Commons of a province be less than the representation in this Chamber. If this legislation should come into force it will ensure to the province of Prince Edward Island a representation in the House of Commons of at least four.

Hon. Mr. DAVID—Or any other province?

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Or of any other province. That is to say, a representation of any other province in the House of Commons will never fall below its representation in this Chamber. With those explanations I would therefore beg to move seconded by the Hon. Mr. Ross (Middleton):

That a humble address be presented to His Royal Highness the Governor General praying that he may be pleased to cause the said address to be placed before His Gracious Majesty the King.

The next motion is:

I beg to move, seconded by Hon. Mr. Ross (Middleton), that a message be sent to the Commons by one of the Masters in Chancery to acquaint that House that the Senate has passed such an address, and praying that they join with the Senate in said address.

Hon. Mr. POWER—Should not the first motion be that we concur in this address?

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—These seem to be the forms which are prescribed for such an address.

Hon. Mr. POWER—We must concur in the address first before we take any motion.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Then I would move the further motion:

That the Senate doth concur in the message of the House of Commons in reference to this particular address.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—Before that motion is put I would simply like to ask the leader of the Government this question. An explanation was given in regard to Prince Edward Island and its representation in the Senate and in the House of Commons. I have no objection, and am only too glad it is proposed, but the question is this—does the provision in the Bill regarding the representation of Prince Edward Island or