

bia, and it was merely a compliment paid to him at the time, and in the true sense of the word, he was not a representative from the province.

Hon. Mr. ROBITAILLE—I should like to know why he did not understand it.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—My hon. friend's argument is rather against the earnest plea he set up for the representation of his province in the Cabinet the other day, because I think hon. gentlemen will come to this conclusion, that if the presence of Sir John Macdonald as the representative of a British Columbia constituency in the House of Commons, in the Cabinet, and as Premier of Canada, was not a benefit to the province, I do not think the province can be benefited by a representative in the Cabinet. As for myself, perhaps I may not be a benefit to my own province; very likely I may not be, but that does not affect the question. Sir John Macdonald may have been a feeble representative of British Columbia in the Cabinet, but I do not think that that affects the question which I am discussing at the present moment. I want to point out, however, to my hon. friend that much later a former representative of British Columbia occupied a Cabinet position for many years. I refer to Mr. Dewdney. It is true that at the time Mr. Dewdney was in the Cabinet he did not represent a British Columbia constituency, but he was at one time a representative of that province, and he has gone back to occupy a prominent position there.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B.C.)—The province never recognized Mr. Dewdney as representing them in the Cabinet after he left British Columbia; and I ask the hon. gentleman, if he lived in British Columbia and never went to his own island, could he represent that island properly, and with satisfaction to his own people? Although we gave Sir John a seat, and were proud to do so, he never represented British Columbia in a proper manner, as a native of that province could have done.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—I am not going to discuss the question as to whether these gentlemen were efficient representatives or not. I know that when Mr. Dewdney was a member of the Cabinet he did not repre-

sent a constituency in British Columbia, but from the fact of its being his adopted province, though he did not live there, it is probable that he may have understood the needs of British Columbia. I simply say this in answer to what has been said with reference to Prince Edward Island. Now, I have been in the province of British Columbia and I do not think my hon. friends have been in the province that I represent. I admire the province of British Columbia, and I do not know that many members of this House have a greater appreciation of the wonderful resources of that province than I have. If British Columbia should get one or two seats in the Cabinet, I am sure I should be very far from sorry. I know my hon. friends do not feel at all sorry that Prince Edward Island has got representation. We are agreed thus far, but I do differ from my hon. friend from British Columbia who brought this matter up with regard to the comparison, he instituted between British Columbia and Prince Edward Island in the matter of contributions to the revenues of the country. I thought we were done with hearing the customs entries at any ports quoted as an evidence of the contributions of any part of Canada to the revenue of the country. We know very well that no fair comparison can be made in that way at all. We know that the importing for Canada is done at certain centres at the present time. The hon. member from Victoria referred to this matter and pointed to certain figures as really representing the contributions of the different parts of the country. That would be very important if they really did represent the contributions, but I submit they do not. I am not very well acquainted with the nature of the importations or the destination of the dutiable goods that are entered in the ports of British Columbia, but I think, looking upon the fact that these ports of British Columbia are the only ports of entry on the Pacific coast, that a good portion of the goods so entered are consumed in other parts of Canada and not consumed in that province—

Hon. Mr. McINNES (B.C.)—Yes, they are.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—Well, with regard to Prince Edward Island, I know that our imports represent but a very small pro-