

additional representation based upon population just the same as in the case of the other provinces.

At one o'clock, House took recess.

House resumed at three o'clock.

Mr. W. J. ROCHE (Marquette). At this late stage of the session I do not propose to claim the attention of the House, even on so important a resolution as this, for more than a few minutes. I think the government are certainly deserving of serious condemnation for their procrastination in bringing down even this resolution—to say nothing of the Bill that was promised—not only in the dying days of the session but in its very dying hours. When we look at the speech from the Throne delivered last November and see that amongst the Bills promised to be brought down this session is one for the extension of the boundaries of Manitoba, and yet we find that far on in the eighth month of the session, the Bill is not introduced but we have only a resolution declaring that certain boundaries shall be carried into effect. I think I put it mildly when I say that such procrastination on the part of the government in so important a matter is certainly deserving of censure. I do not think that the excuse given, or the reason assigned by the government, that the legislature of Manitoba, had, at its last session, varied its demands to a certain extent in regard to these boundaries is one that will appeal to the members of this House, or to the country, as being sufficient to justify this procrastination. We must take into consideration the fact that the latest memorial of the legislature of Manitoba I had the honour to present four or five months ago. And surely in that time, on a matter which, no doubt, has engaged the serious attention of the government in the past, there was no reason to postpone action until the very last week of the session. I desire to give briefly the historical facts of this boundary question: Successive legislatures of Manitoba have dealt with this matter, and always in a non-partisan and non-political way, so that resolutions passed relating to the boundaries of the province of Manitoba have been, almost without exception, passed unanimously. Manitoba entered confederation in 1870, with an estimated population of 17,000 and having at that time an area of 13,500 square miles. It is true that we had some addition to our western boundaries which increased our territory to 73,700 square miles, a large proportion of which is water. That area was afterwards enlarged in the manner that I shall advert to in a few moments. The first resolution passed in the legislature of Manitoba, subsequent to confederation asking for an extension of boundaries was passed in 1873, and an Act received the assent of the Lieutenant Governor in 1873 praying for the further extension of our boundaries. So far

Mr. PUGSLEY.

as relates to the eastern territory, it asks practically the same amount of territory as in the recent resolution passed by the legislature and presented in the form of a memorial to this parliament. This request of 1873, had it been carried into effect, would have given us a port on Hudson bay and also a port on Lake Superior. So far as I can judge, the people west of the great lakes are, territorially in sympathy with and are united in interest with, the west. I believe that the people, in their ideas, are decidedly western. I had the honour to address a meeting in the city of Port Arthur four years ago and nothing that I said seemed to meet more the approbation of the electors than the declaration of my opinion that that part of the country, now in Ontario, was essentially western country and should have been left to the province of Manitoba. And I believe the feeling of the people thus indicated has not changed to the present day. The request of the legislature of Manitoba, if granted, would have given the province of Manitoba an area of 279,000 square miles. The second resolution passed by the legislature asking for an extension of boundaries was passed on April 26, 1875, and practically endorsed the resolution of two years previous. Then, on February 13, 1880, Mr. Greenway, leader of the opposition in the legislature, moved that a memorial be presented to the Dominion parliament asking for the extension of Manitoba's boundaries and that a deputation should proceed to Ottawa to lay the case of Manitoba before the members of the Dominion government. This resolution was passed unanimously and a deputation was sent east to interview the government. As a result, a Bill was introduced into Canada called the Campbell Bill. Sir Alexander Campbell was a minister in Sir John Macdonald's government. He introduced in the Senate a Bill providing for the extension of Manitoba's eastern boundary to harmonize with a line drawn due north from the junction of the Ohio and Mississippi river, which would run in the neighbourhood of Port Arthur and up to Hudson bay. This, had it passed, would have given Manitoba an additional 154,411 square miles. But this measure was taken exception to by the then Ontario government. Sir Oliver Mowat claimed that a portion of the territory—only a portion, however—was wrongly handed over to Manitoba and in reality belonged to Ontario. As a result, there was an appeal to the Privy Council of Great Britain. That was not decided till the year 1884. The result of that appeal was that there were some 39,000 square miles handed over to the province of Ontario. This was a part of the 154,411 square miles which was, by the Campbell Act, handed over to Manitoba. There was also 40,000 square miles in Keewatin recognized as undisputed territory, and lying north of what was then considered the northern boundary of On-