

ing of the constitution was perfect and admirable, and as hon. gentlemen know, the increase of representation of the English provinces, except Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, was great. But when, because of the increased population in the province of Quebec the scales were turned and the representation in another province was reduced, then it was necessary to amend the constitution—that sacred constitution was no more sacred; it was an act of justice to change it. I appreciate the patriotic feelings of the representatives of the province of Prince Edward Island, and the other provinces; I appreciate their motives which are no doubt good; they must be anxious about the effect of the federal Act in connection with their representation; but I say that the change or modification of the constitution is a violation of what was considered as the basis of Confederation, a violation of the promises which were made at the time by the provinces, and made without the consent of the provinces.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. DAVID—All the provinces should be consulted before such a modification is made in the federal Act, because Confederation would not have been accepted if those conditions had not been inserted in the federal Act.

Hon. Mr. KERR—Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. DAVID—I said this proposal was a violation of all the promises made by the fathers of Confederation, and a striking proof of the poor foundation of their prediction. I admit that the change seems to be small to the representatives of the province of Prince Edward Island and the other provinces, but it is no less a first encroachment on the constitution. The door is open, and I fear it will be very difficult to close it, if the constitution is changed now, as it is intended to do by this Bill. Why should not the other provinces also later on ask some modification of the federal Act? And where will be the end? What will be the result? The Bill must go to England, and it will come back in what condition? I am a little afraid, for I remember what took place in connection with our representation based upon population. When the two provinces were united, one of the essential conditions of that union was equality of representation of both provinces in Parliament. At that time the population of Lower Canada was considerably greater than that of Upper Can-

ada, so that naturally the province of Ontario had no objection to the principle of representation by population being inserted in the Dominion Act, but a change took place—

Hon. Mr. MURPHY—The hon. gentleman will pardon me, but the province of Prince Edward Island always objected to representation by population.

Hon. Mr. DAVID—The province of Ontario wanted to have equality of representation, but when the population of Ontario increased in a greater proportion than that of Quebec, then they wanted to make a change in the constitution. And what took place? In connection with the modification of the constitution of the Legislative Council in 1854, when the Government applied to the British Parliament to change the constitution there, there was inserted secretly, we do not know by whom, a statement in that Bill that the Parliament of Canada would have the right to change the constitution, and to accept the principle of representation by population. I hope that the members of the Government will be on their guard to see that the Bill does not come back with some modification that would be detrimental to the whole interest of the country, and especially to certain provinces.

Hon. Mr. MURPHY—I do not wish to be misunderstood in this matter. The hon. gentleman from Mille Iles says I object to the Bill. I stated that my objections were somewhat limited, and from a different reason to that given by the leader of the Opposition. I objected that the resolution did not go far enough; but it was a judicial compromise and for that reason I was disposed to accept it. If the leader of the Opposition had not objected to the clause I would not have said anything. The resolution having passed the other House unanimously, and being the result of months of work done by the committee to which the matter was referred, we cannot expect to improve it very much in the two or three hours we will have it before us in the Senate.

Hon. Mr. PROWSE—There was no member from our province on that committee.

Hon. Mr. MURPHY—No, but they did the best they could for the little sister of the Confederation. They tried to be not only just, but as far as possible generous to Prince Edward Island. The hon. gentleman from Mille Iles says that no com-