

Government on these points, I must find a little fault with them, not for the sake of finding fault, but with good reason. The province from which I hail has been a member of the confederation for 24 years, Prince Edward Island has been a member of the confederation for twenty-two years and during that period, has had no less than three of its representatives members of the Privy Council of Canada. The first was Mr. Laird, the second was Mr. Pope, and now we have the Hon. Mr. Ferguson. I find no fault whatever with the government for making this last appointment and giving Prince Edward Island representation in the Cabinet. But I do find fault with them, and I am expressing the almost unanimous opinion of the people of British Columbia, for the gross injustice that has been done to our province ever since it entered the union. Some ten years ago I introduced a resolution affirming the principle that each of the four natural divisions of Canada should be represented in the Cabinet. The first division was the maritime provinces, the second Ontario and Quebec, the third the prairie section, the fourth the Pacific coast. I pointed out on that occasion that, in my judgment, the dissatisfaction which gave rise to the last rebellion in the North-west Territories, was attributable to the fact that there was no representative of the prairie region in the Cabinet, and that the rebellion was due to the ignorance of the government of the true condition of affairs in the North-west and the consequent gross injustice of the treatment that the people of that country received. That outbreak resulted in the loss of 62 precious lives and about \$9,000,000 in money. Not only that, but the rebellion retarded the settlement of the country and we feel the effects of it even to the present day. Before the outbreak there was a steady stream of emigration into the country, which ceased immediately after the rebellion broke out. Comparisons, we are told, are odious, but I am forced to make comparisons, I do so, however, without any ill-feeling to the hon. gentleman who has been brought into the government to represent Prince Edward Island. I am happy that he is there and it is only right and proper that the island province should be represented in the Cabinet, but I claim that British Columbia should also be represented, and for several reasons which I shall now give. In 1892 the province of British Columbia was the third

largest in its contributions to the public treasury from customs and excise, standing even ahead of Nova Scotia. I want the hon. member from Lunenburg, to take particular notice of that.

Hon. Mr. KAULBACH—I am.

Hon. Mr. McINNES—British Columbia contributed nearly \$1,750,000 that very year, while the province of Prince Edward Island contributed only a little more than one-tenth of that amount. Another reason why British Columbia should be represented in the Cabinet is its great distance from the capital. While Prince Edward Island is within easy reach of Ottawa—less than 1,000 miles—British Columbia is no less than 3,000 miles from the capital, and it is almost impossible for its representatives in either house to come here and make their opinions felt as is done by the representatives of the maritime provinces. We should have some representative to whom we could look, and whom we could hold responsible for fair treatment towards our province. British Columbia, being furthest removed from the capital, should, above all other provinces, be represented in the Cabinet. We have occasional visits from ministers of the Crown in the North-west Territories and Manitoba, and we are always glad to see them. I think I am not exaggerating when I say that we generally treat them very well—that is as long as they behave themselves.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—They always do that.

Hon. Mr. McINNES—I must confess the hon. premier does, and some few others also do, but there are others who behave differently. Those annual pic-nics, I understand, are made at the cost of the country, and the ministers can stay only a day or two. They are very willing to lend a listening ear to any complaints that we may make, and they take notes of our complaints, but that is all we ever hear on the subject. British Columbia has an enormous area—about 300 times as great as the little island province in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and certainly that ought to be taken into consideration. Not only that, but the maritime provinces are comparatively finished provinces. They increase in population very slowly. Between 1881 and 1891, I believe, Prince Edward