

that around the lakes in northern Manitoba we have some pretty poor land that might be used for other purposes than farming? When they approved the resolution, dealing with agricultural lands in the east, why didn't you let them know that we might like to have a similar investigation carried out with respect to western Canada?"

As I say, I am pleased that the Senate will be asked to establish this committee, for we have experienced men and women here who can and will deal with this problem without political prejudice. But I think the inquiry should include all of Canada, so that the whole country may benefit from the committee's work.

At a recent party convention a resolution was introduced to reform the Senate.

Hon. Mr. Bouffard: Were you at the convention?

Hon. Mr. Haig: I certainly was, and I must say that I didn't agree with the resolution at all. You hear all sorts of suggestions everywhere about reforming the Senate. I told the people attending that political convention—and I would say the same to all people who talk about reforming the Senate—that they should read the history of parliamentary debates up to and following Confederation. I am convinced that there never would have been a Confederation of Canada had there not been provision for establishment of the Senate.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Crerar: There is no doubt about that.

Hon. Mr. Haig: There is no doubt at all that the Maritime provinces would not have joined Confederation. I remember that on one occasion His Honour the Speaker (Hon. Mr. Robertson) when he was a private member in this chamber, said that Nova Scotia's long felt pretty bitter about Confederation. Well, I am sure that without the establishment of the Senate Nova Scotia would never have entered Confederation.

Hon. Mr. Bouffard: There is no question about that.

Hon. Mr. Haig: It is recorded that somebody asked Georges Etienne Cartier what he thought about Quebec joining Confederation and he replied that Quebec understood and expected to have equal representation with Ontario in the Senate. As the four western provinces were admitted to Confederation they were told quite candidly that their territorial division, despite its size, would be entitled to only 24 senators. In 1949, when Newfoundland joined Confederation, the representation of the eastern provinces in the

Senate was increased from 24 to 30. Those provinces have only 33 members in the House of Commons. Ontario has 85 representatives in the House of Commons but only 24 in the Senate. Confederation would never have come into existence without a Senate having equal representation from Quebec, the Maritimes and Ontario. Had I been a Maritimer I am positive that, considering my own nature, I would have advised against joining Confederation unless we were given equal representation with the other territorial divisions. I would have done the same had I been a Quebecer as Cartier did.

Some people think that the Senate should discuss and debate subjects just as the House of Commons does. That is not the purpose of the Senate. For some years prior to Confederation, members of the Legislative Council, as the Upper House was then called, were elected. The situation had become so bad by 1864 that, when considering the constitution of the Senate, the delegates to the Quebec Conference voted unanimously for abolition of the elective system and substitution of a purely nominative body. History records that Brown said, "Appointed or nothing", and Macdonald agreed. Honourable senators, if in two sessions, say, the House of Commons sent legislation over to us and we refused it, and if finally the Government decided to go to the country on the issue and the people overwhelmingly supported the legislation, we would realize that we must accept the voice of the people. Some one once asked Macdonald why every senator was obliged to own property worth \$4,000. Macdonald replied: "Some day Canada may have a government that wants to take all our property away from us. Do you think those old boys there who have \$4,000 worth of property will let them take it away? Not if I know them!"

Hon. Senators: Oh, oh.

Hon. Mr. Haig: I think Macdonald was correct. Honourable senators, I would like the boys and girls of this country, and older people as well, to read the history of Confederation in the Confederation Debates and see what the purpose of the Senate was. Let me give one instance of its usefulness. I think it was in the year 1920 that Sir Robert Borden, when he was Prime Minister of Canada, brought into the House of Commons a bill to repeal the Crowsnest Pass agreement. That was really a statute on the books, not an agreement, fixing the rates on grain and grain products between Winnipeg and Fort William, and between Winnipeg and the coast; it governed the Canadian Pacific Railway, but the other lines had to