

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I have no objection, and have had the Bill printed.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I had no doubt the hon. gentleman would have no objection. Of course, I have no objection whatever to the propositions he has made, which have been enforced on this side, as to the extreme desirability of giving representation to these Territories. The only point that strikes me is this: Whether, in adopting a Bill which is not merely operative for the present occasion, but which gives us the power from time to time in all future cases, if I understand the proposal aright,—

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Yes.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT—some reasonable provisions should now be introduced into it to prevent an undue representation being given to the very small population in outlying Territories. The basis of our Constitution is that each Province shall be represented according to its population. Although there were good reasons for departing from that in the case of fast-growing Provinces, still care should be taken to prevent any abuse creeping in by giving a great number of representatives to very thinly settled territories. That might be pressed so far as to interfere to some extent with the principle of representation by population, as it exists in the other Provinces.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. That will be completely in the power of the Dominion Parliament, from time to time. When the Province of Manitoba was formed, although the population was very small indeed, we gave them four members to the House of Commons. Objection was taken then that we were giving them representation far exceeding their rights according to population, but Parliament held that one member—perhaps all it had a right to have, and perhaps all the whole North West has a right to have, taking population as the basis—was practically of no use, while by giving them four they would be enabled, as a delegation from the Province, to confer together, and press with some energy and hope of success the views of their locality. Parliament took that view of the case, but the objection was taken strongly by the hon. member for East York (Mr. Mackenzie) and the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Mills). The hon. gentleman who has just spoken also said it was in excess of the population, but that a generous view should be taken of the case. Parliament here will have the power to give such representation as they think proper.

Mr. EDGAR. Is it the intention of the Government to give full power to representatives from the Territories, or in any way to limit their power, as is done in the United States with territorial representatives?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The Government, in giving a Territory power to send one delegate only, did it limit his right to that of making speeches only, would be giving it representation of no value whatever, and it is proposed the representative shall have the same power and status in Parliament here as any one of us. I desire to pass this resolution to-day, because it is of some importance that the Address should go home and that the Government in England should take it up immediately after their Easter recess.

Mr. MULLOCK. I do not rise for the purpose of opposing the resolution in its true spirit, namely, that steps should be taken with a view of obtaining representation of the North-West Territory. I think that it is a most desirable thing to seek to accomplish; but, looking at the wording of this resolution and considering the use that might be made of such a resolution as a dangerous precedent in the future, it seems to me that we should proceed with very great caution in this matter. The Government ask by this resolution that they may be permitted, without the sanction of Parliament, without further conference with

Parliament, to submit a Bill to the Imperial Parliament for the purpose of altering the Imperial Act which binds these various Provinces together. It may be quite right that that Act should be modified from time to time, but the manner in which the opinions of the people of Canada are to be submitted to the Imperial Parliament is the point to which I beg to direct the attention of the House. My own opinion is that whatever request is submitted to the Imperial Parliament as the wish of the people of Canada should first of all be settled in every particular by this House. If it is proposed to submit a Bill to the Imperial Parliament to alter the Confederation Act, I submit that we cannot be too careful in proceeding, and that that Bill should be submitted to this House and discussed as carefully as any matter which is within our jurisdiction, and that, when finally we have approved of every word in that document, then and not till then does it represent the wishes of the people of Canada, and then and not till then should any communication be directed to the Imperial Parliament to give their sanction to that set of words and convert them into law. For that reason, while desiring that representation shall be given to the North-West, and desiring that the object aimed at, according to the words of the First Minister, shall be accomplished at an early date, I think prudence and caution should suggest, and I hope it will suggest to the First Minister, the propriety of putting in some words in this resolution showing that the humble Address which is referred to cannot be forwarded as representing the opinions of the people of Canada until this Parliament has done something further, and that is, to express its opinion upon the provisions of the Bill.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I think the hon. gentleman is a little too late; I think the resolution has been passed.

Mr. SPEAKER. No, it is not. I simply put the question.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The resolution is:

That a humble Address be presented to Her Majesty, representing that for the good government of the several Territories forming part of the Dominion of Canada, and not included within any Province thereof, it is expedient that provision should be made for their representation in the Parliament of Canada, and praying that she may be graciously pleased to cause a measure to be laid before the Imperial Parliament to empower the Parliament of Canada from time to time to make provision for such representation.

The only thing we ask is to have power to pass an Act, that whenever we think it necessary to make a Territory a Province we should have power to give it representation in the Dominion Parliament. That is the whole, and any Bill which would go further than this is not in accordance with the resolution.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. MULLOCK. Did I understand the First Minister to say that the Bill he proposes will be submitted to this Parliament before it is sent to the Imperial Parliament?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I mean to say that when I move for the Bill to give representation to the North-West Territory, it will be brought down here, and if it is not satisfactory it will not be passed.

Mr. MULLOCK. That is not my question. My question is, whether the First Minister proposes to submit to the Parliament of Canada the Bill which he intends to ask the Imperial Parliament to pass in accordance with this resolution?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. It would be rather an act of presumption for us to pass an Act here, and send it to England and ask them to pass that Act. That would be rather absurd. We ask that they shall pass an Act containing certain provisions, and they will do it in such apt phrase as the parliamentary draftsmen will settle. The