

that the Parliament of Canada would ever ask the Imperial government to pass legislation amending the British North America Act in such a way as to interfere with the rights of minorities? There can be no greater guarantee of the preservation of those rights than the individual honour and integrity of the people of Canada, of every race and religion. In addition, should this unthinkable procedure be adopted at any time, I know of no precedent by which we could expect the Imperial Parliament—so long as any responsibility is imposed in that body—to heed a majority voice in this country asking for amendments that would affect, not matters of national concern, but only provincial and minority questions. Honourable senators, it is unfortunate that any suggestion of that kind has ever been made in Canada. The best answer to it is the unity of Canada, the spirit of the Canadian people, and the attitude of the Imperial Parliament, all of which show that such a thing has never been thought of and would never be tolerated.

Question has been raised about the tax agreement provisions between Canada and Newfoundland. Apparently there are two provisions concerning income tax and other matters—first, that Newfoundland may accept an offer from the dominion on the same terms as those on which the other provinces have accepted; and second, that when the special offer has been made to Newfoundland it may enter into a contract for a period of, I think, eight years. If Newfoundland chooses to enter into that contract it will be binding for that term, regardless of any deal made with any other province. The question has been asked: Why discriminate against Newfoundland? Honourable senators, there is no discrimination against Newfoundland. There are provisions today whereby the provinces have agreements with the dominion for three years, and if a change is made with any one province the others are entitled to the same consideration. Newfoundland also is entitled to that same consideration. She will have the opportunity of accepting on the same basis as the other provinces. In addition, another proposition has been made to Newfoundland. If she wishes, she may make a special bargain for a longer period of time, but by adopting this alternative she must expect to be bound by it. It therefore follows, not that Newfoundland is discriminated against, but rather has secured for herself a special offer, if she wishes to accept it.

Comments have been made in Canada about the procedure by which that country has been authorized to enter into this agreement, and we are not unmindful of remarks made about it in Newfoundland. But that matter does not immediately concern us in Canada, except to this extent. My honour-

able friend from New Brunswick (Hon. Mr. Copp) has referred to the province of Nova Scotia, and we all know that that province was rather hustled into confederation against her own wishes. But it has not turned out to be such a bad arrangement. The Liberals no doubt seriously criticized Sir Charles Tupper for what has been said to be his high-handed method of bringing Nova Scotia into confederation. I think that all Canadians will now agree that if Nova Scotia could not have been brought in any other way, it was a good thing that that method was taken. I am sure that all of Canada is today very glad and proud that Nova Scotia is part of the Canadian confederation.

I believe, however, that we would be most reluctant at this time to feel that any high-handed measures were taken by this country, or by any group in Newfoundland or the British Government, to force that ancient colony, the oldest of all the North American colonies, into confederation. By a free and uncontrolled vote of all the electors of that British community, a substantial majority have declared their wish to join with Canada, and I think that we can feel entirely free to accept them on that basis.

My honourable friend mentioned something about the new senators that are to come to this house, and indicated that they would be six in number. Speaking as one from British Columbia, I may say that we are very glad to learn that there are to be six senators from Newfoundland. We have not the least criticism of that proposal, but there will come a time in the affairs of this country when British Columbia will have something to say about her small Senate representation in comparison with her population, and the representation of other provinces, entirely apart from Newfoundland.

Those, honourable senators, are the only observations I wish to make of a special nature. I do feel that every senator who speaks should take advantage of this occasion to comment on the great and historic significance of the use of parliament in bringing about this confederation. It is eighty-five years since, in 1864, the representatives of the British Colonies on the North American continent met in the city of Quebec at the Quebec Conference. As my honourable friend from Westmorland (Hon. Mr. Copp) has reminded us, Newfoundland was represented at that conference. It was as a direct outcome of that meeting that the British North America Act was passed three years later. At that time only four provinces, namely Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario joined Confederation; but the