

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—No; the declaration of my hon. friend's own political party, which is to found in the Statute of 1905, was that the two provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan were entitled to the increased representation immediately the census of 1911 was taken, that increased representation should have been made before this.

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE—Where will the hon. gentleman find that?

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—You will find it in the Provincial Act of Saskatchewan, the Provincial Act of Alberta.

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE—The hon. gentleman is mistaken if he will allow me to say so. Section 4 of the Provincial Act says:

The said province shall be represented in the Senate of Canada by four members provided that such representation may, after the completion of the next decennial census, be from time to time increased to six by the Parliament of Canada.

It was enabling power that was given, to be exercised by the Parliament of Canada, which reserved its power to do it from time to time as might be deemed advisable; and our contention—the contention of the hon. leader of the Opposition as I understood him,—was that the resolution should demand that the Imperial Parliament give to the Parliament of Canada the enabling power to increase the representation in the Senate from the western provinces from time to time as Parliament may deem advisable, to the number of six in each province, or 24 in all. In that way we would be acting exactly on the lines followed heretofore as regards the very same matter, and to my mind it would be much more logical to ask that this clause be exercised by Parliament than let it be exercised by Orders in Council.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—I do not intend to press the point, but it seems to me there is very much more in the contention of my hon. friend to my left (Hon. Mr. Bostock) seeing the precedents all tend to ask the British Parliament to give us enabling powers instead of that Parliament making the law for itself. That is why I was asking my hon. friend if the Government intended, or had made up its mind, to appoint the nine senators and did not care to ask Parliament to give it the right to do so whenever it pleased, or if it relinquished that right of Parliament to say when and by what number the Senate would be increased, and leave to the Imperial Parliament the

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right of saying in a clear-cut way, 'The increase will be mine'. My hon. friend admitted at the outset this morning that the occasion for this legislation is the last census taken, and the redistribution of the seats in the House of Commons; our point was well taken when we said that this resolution should not leave the Senate until the redistribution had reached here in order that we should be sure that there is such a tuning as the redistribution of the House. Inasmuch as the Act is in this form and is not an enabling Act, I simply wanted to know that it was on this form because the Government had a clear mind as to the necessity of increasing the representation of the West up to 24. My hon. friend says yes. Now I put that other question, if this increase in representation in the two Houses runs concurrently, are not the principles which govern the redistribution of the House of Commons, and the increases there, to avail and to cover the increased representation in the Senate, which is to be done after dissolution? That is the question which I wanted to put to my hon. friend.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—As a Canadian I am surprised at the moderation of the demands of the people of the West in this group that is coming in—the northern group. We have the Maritime group, the Quebec group, the Ontario group, and now we have the Northern group, that territory which is now one of the most flourishing parts of Canada and destined to attain a very large population. It is several times larger than the other groups in the past. The actual representatives of that territory are not too pressing in their demands; they are not exaggerating the situation. They are simply satisfied to be placed on the same basis as the older groups of the Dominion. I consider that a very moderate position to take in view of their prospective development. While our population in the East will grow slowly, the West is destined to have an enormous increase of population. I am surprised at their moderation in asking to be placed on an equal basis with the old group. I am also in favour of giving them increased representation. They have more population in the four western provinces now than the older provinces had at the time of Confederation. British Columbia alone has as much population as the Maritime provinces; Alberta and Saskatchewan have almost as much as the province of Quebec, and Manitoba practically the same. I do not think there can be any objection to the Government giving