

tend the boundaries of the province of Quebec upon such terms and conditions as may be agreed to by the legislature of Quebec without reference to the other provinces.

Mr. PUGSLEY. My hon. friend must see that it is upon terms and conditions to be agreed upon by the legislature and by this parliament. Therefore, it will be quite open to this parliament to say to the legislature of Quebec: We will agree to extend the boundaries, but upon the condition that the old province of Quebec shall be the pivot of representation, and that, with regard to the added territory, it shall stand exactly in the same position as the other provinces.

Mr. LENNOX. But New Brunswick would have no say except as represented by this parliament.

Mr. PUGSLEY. And if I understood for a moment that this parliament was committing itself in any way on the question of representation, I would hesitate before being a party to the measure before the House. But I understand that it is entirely open to this parliament to safeguard the interests of the other provinces with respect to representation. My own opinion is that it would be a proper and generous thing on the part of parliament and the larger provinces to agree that the representation of the smaller provinces should be restored—

Mr. DANIEL. Would the minister allow me a question? He said that there was nothing in this measure to affect the representation. I would like him to say whether, in his opinion, it is possible to increase the area of the province of Quebec without affecting the representation of every province in the Dominion?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Does not my hon. friend see that all this resolution does is simply to commit parliament to an expression of an opinion as to what would be the proper boundaries of the different provinces? It does not in any way determine the terms and conditions upon which the boundaries are to be enlarged. It expressly provides:

That, upon the legislature of the province of Quebec consenting thereto, it is expedient to extend the boundaries of the said province, upon such terms and conditions as may be agreed to by the said legislature and by parliament.

Mr. CROCKET. And without any stipulation with respect to its effect upon the representation of the other provinces.

Mr. PUGSLEY. It seems to me that my hon. friend does not wish to understand the meaning of this clause. It expressly reserves to parliament the right to stipulate as to the terms and conditions upon which

the boundaries shall be enlarged. I was going to say, speaking for myself individually, and as a representative of the maritime provinces, that I would hope that when these boundaries are extended, and when this proposition is crystallized by an Act of parliament, the larger provinces, including the province of Quebec, would be generous enough to agree that the representation of the smaller provinces shall be restored to what it was at the time of confederation.

Mr. HAGGART. Would you have power to do that without an alteration of the Imperial Act?

Mr. PUGSLEY. It is very clear that the British North America Act will have to be altered; but I presume that an expression of opinion from the various provinces through their legislatures, and the consent thereto by this parliament, would be all that would be necessary in order to have the imperial parliament make such an alteration. But of course that is only my individual view, which I put forward as a representative of one of the maritime provinces. But failing that, I would feel, while not pretending to any great knowledge of constitutional law, even if there were no provision made with regard to representation, that when we come to interpret the law—and that would arise when the next census was taken and the question of representation would again come up—Quebec, for the purposes of representation, would mean Quebec as it existed at the time of confederation. If Newfoundland were to come into the confederation as a part of the province of Quebec, how absurd it would be to contend that Quebec would then mean the added territory of Newfoundland.

Mr. LENNOX. Has it not been so decided?

Mr. PUGSLEY. No, it has not been so decided. All that was decided in the representation case to which I have just referred was that under the terms of the British North America Act it was contemplated that Rupert's Land should be brought into the confederation, and that the word Canada, whenever we came to interpret its meaning, would be Canada as it might exist from time to time. But that is a very different question from the question of what would be the province of Quebec for the purposes of representation. Apart altogether from the legal view, I would hope that if the representation of the smaller provinces might not be restored when we come to consider definitely the terms of the extension of boundaries, it would be provided, so that there would be no doubt about it, that for the purposes of representation the province of Quebec should mean that province, as it existed at the time of confederation, and that the added portion of the province should have its