

Mr. MILLS. Does the hon. gentleman remember the precise words of the Act?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. They are "representation in the Senate and House of Commons," I think. I am sure of it. Representation in both Houses expressly.

Mr. MILLS. Without any limitation?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Without any limitation.

Mr. MILLS. So the Parliament of Canada could give twenty Senators to the North-West instead of two, if it saw fit?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I think so.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). I took exception to the address which the hon. gentleman proposed last year on this subject, and I think the power which the hon. gentleman says the Imperial Parliament has conferred shows that the exception I took was well founded. When we proposed on a former occasion to alter the British North America Act and provide for the admission of Manitoba under the Federal system, which was not done before Manitoba was actually admitted into the Confederation, we also prevented the Government from undertaking to proceed by address, and we indicated here in the House what were to be the provisions of the Imperial Act which was to alter and amend the constitution in that particular. Last year the hon. gentleman proposed to this House an address asking the Imperial Parliament to legislate, not doing what we had done before, not indicating to the Imperial Parliament the precise character of the legislation which was required, but an address asking simply for legislation. It did not require any very serious consideration of the subject to see that the members of that Parliament, unfamiliar with our system of Government, without any disposition or motive to give the question serious consideration, were likely to make alterations in our constitution which might prove of the most serious character. Now, the hon. gentleman proposes under this Bill to give to the people of the North-West Territories representation in the Senate by two members. The hon. gentleman knows that the British North America Act limited the number of members that might be appointed to the Senate for the Province of Ontario, for the Province of Quebec, for the Maritime Provinces. They were restricted. The hon. gentleman cannot appoint more than twenty-four senators for the Province of Ontario, but the hon. gentleman admits that in this case there is no such restriction. There is a radical alteration in the terms of our constitution, and it is in the power of the Administration to propose a measure to Parliament, and it is in the power of Parliament to carry through such a measure, to give to the North-West Territories, where there are at this moment but little more than twenty thousand people, as large a representation in the Senate as all the other Provinces have put together. The hon. gentleman has done this, and I call his attention to the fact that, if there was a change of Government to-morrow, if the new Government had a majority in this House and could obtain the consent of the Senate to it, there would be nothing to prevent their asking this House to appoint forty senators, so as to enable the Reform party to counterbalance the representation that the hon. gentleman and his friends have already acquired in that body. That is the position in which our constitution is placed by this action of the hon. gentleman. There is nothing to prevent an unlimited number of senators being appointed. All that is necessary is that these senators shall be called senators for the North-West Territories. If that is done, the law is complied with, the constitution is not violated, and the flexibility of the English system, which the hon. gentleman has so frequently lauded in this House, will have been actually introduced into our second chamber. I do not know that the people of this country are especially anxious

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that the number of nominated senators should be increased. I do not know that that body has proved so thoroughly efficient, so necessary to the proper balancing of our constitution, that the people would be very indignant with the Administration if they failed to bring this portion of the constitution into effect. I admit that there are many very important enquiries, many important functions that a second chamber might undertake to discharge. There are important functions that are performed by the House of Lords, but these functions are not performed by the Senate of this country; and it does seem to me that people who, altogether number only 23,000, the number to be found in an ordinary constituency, will be quite content to have four representatives in this House without having a certain number of illusory representatives in the second chamber. There is no pressing or special necessity for it. In the United States, where they live under a democratic system of Government, where the rights of the individual are very carefully guarded, the Congress of the United States has given to the people in the Territories two representatives from each territory. They have the privilege of explaining their position in the House of Representatives, but they are not voters in that House. Their constituents are supposed to be too largely dependent on the Executive to make it the interest of the country that they should exercise any influence by way of voting in that chamber. But in the Senate, in this second body, which is intended to protect the rights of the state and to prevent encroachments being made upon their autonomy or authority, there is no representation at all. It is not supposed that representation is necessary; it is not felt. Why, Sir, the great majority of the people of this country have an idea they could get on without representation in the Senate as it is now constituted. To this Senate each Province returns, or is supposed to be represented by a certain number of senators. But what important interest of a Province has that body, as it is now, ever guarded. What encroachment undertaken by this House upon the rights of the Provinces has been resisted by the Senate? The hon. gentlemen on the Treasury benches have disregarded the provisions of the constitution, they have violated its spirit and have disallowed measures that are clearly within the competency of the Legislatures, and within their jurisdiction; but in what instance has this body, that was intended specially to guard the interests of the Provinces, come to the rescue of the Provinces, and protected provincial rights against national encroachment? In not a single instance. So I do not see that the Territories are likely to suffer for want of the two members which the hon. gentleman proposes to put into the Senate on behalf of the Territories. It does not seem from the Bill that it is necessary that they should come from the Territories.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The hon. gentleman will see that all the clauses are taken from the British North America Act and applied.

Mr. MILLS. The hon. gentleman says all the clauses are applied. If they are in the Province of Quebec, the senator must reside in the particular district which he represents.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The hon. gentleman ought to read over the Bill before he criticises it.

Mr. MILLS. I have read the Bill.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Not much.

Mr. MILLS. Well, I have a better opportunity of knowing than the hon. gentleman.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I beg the hon. gentleman's pardon. He has forgotten the terms of the Bill, that is all.

Mr. MILLS. Now, Sir, I say that the people of the Territories have not asked for this; they are not pressing upon the Government the appointment of two senators. What