

dition which is made by this Bill in the political condition, I think it is Quebec. There would be much to say on this question, but in the last hours of the session I will speak briefly. This Bill has two special features: first, the increase in the members of the Senate; secondly, the increase of the representatives in the House of Commons, and in this House, of Prince Edward Island, and perhaps later on affecting other provinces. I cannot help remembering what took place at the time of the establishment of Confederation. In order to induce the province of Quebec to accept the principle of representation based upon population, which the old province of Quebec had fought for since the union of both provinces, it was felt and it was enacted in the Federal Act that as a compensation there would be equality of representation in the Senate between the three great provinces, which at the time formed part of, and entered into Confederation. This was one of the principal conditions brought before the people at the time by the members of the Government and by the newspapers which supported the Administration. Naturally the province of Quebec did not like the clause which enacted that that province would not have more than sixty-five members, and there was first a great opposition to that clause. While we were bound to remain always at that fixed number of sixty-five, the other provinces, if their population increases have the right to increase their representation in proportion to their population. The provision was regarded as unjust at the time, to put Quebec in that position; but as an hon. gentleman has just said, the minorities in the other provinces and the province of Quebec looked to find protection in the constitution of the Senate, because Ontario had twenty-four, Quebec twenty-four, and the Maritime provinces twenty-four members. It is said we would be represented by one-third of the members of the Senate, and that the third of the members of the Senate would find in the other House a support, if it were necessary to protect their interest. Mr. George Brown said at the time, at a banquet given in Toronto to the delegates who had been appointed to prepare the scheme for the British provinces:

The Senate was to be composed of 76 members, and Prince Edward Island four and Newfoundland one—

with so much smaller representation in the upper House. Later on he said:

Hon. Mr. DAVID.

It is easy to remove objections on this score, having obtained for Upper Canada—

Please listen to this part of his speech, hon. gentlemen—

He said having obtained for Upper Canada that just preponderance in the Lower Chamber for which we have so long contended, we ought to allow the gentlemen from Lower Canada, so long as no flagrant injustice were done, to frame the constitution of the other Chamber very much as they choose. A hundred and ninety-four members of Commons having expressed the opinion that the province of Quebec would never have more than sixty-five members. He added that the representation of the House would be readjusted every ten years.

Well, I think we will be obliged to admit that the protection, which the constitution of the Senate was to give the province of Quebec, and to the minorities in the Confederation, has been really reduced, and that if there is a province that ought to complain, which has a right to complain of this Bill, it is the province of Quebec, more than the province of Prince Edward Island. Now, another word. A feature of the Bill is to increase the representation of Prince Edward Island and perhaps also other provinces, to give them the right to have more representatives in the House of Commons than they are entitled to under the federal Act. Well, I remember what was said at the time the Confederation was established. I have just said that one of the consolations, if I may use that word, which was offered to the province of Quebec, was that in the Senate that province would be represented by twenty-four, by as many members as the province of Ontario and the Maritime provinces, but there was another consolation; it was said at the time by Sir George Etienne Cartier, and published in all the newspapers at the time, and said in the House, and in the convention which took place then, that the time would come when the other provinces would be obliged to diminish the number of representatives of the other provinces in the House of Commons, because their population would not increase in proportion to the increase of the population of the province of Quebec. That was repeated everywhere, on all the hustings. That was the principal argument which at the time was enunciated in order to give satisfaction to the province of Quebec. Well, as long as the constitution worked, as the clause that I have cited from the federal Act worked in the way of increasing the representation of the province of Ontario, and the other English provinces, there was no complaint. The work-