

all fairness, at that time to take into consideration this question and to ask that the imperial parliament should review the question of representation all over the country. But that is not a question which this conference can deal with. This parliament alone, when the Act founded on the deliberations of this conference is introduced, will have to deal with the question of representation, in the light of the changed conditions that will result from the increase of the territories of these three provinces. It does not appear to me that this amendment is at all appropriate when it asks 'that the extensions of boundaries provided for by this resolution should be accompanied by such conditions as would prevent such extensions prejudicially affecting the representation of any province in parliament.' I do not think that parliament at this time should be asked to come to any such conclusion, because nothing that can be done by that conference will affect the representation directly. It seems to me that all the rights of any province in this regard will be well protected by the resolution which I propose, because it deals with the conditions as they are, and parliament should keep itself in line with constitutional and legal principles. I therefore move in amendment to the amendment:

That under any legislation to be introduced to give effect to the foregoing resolution, nothing shall be done or provided to impair the representation of any province in this House.

I move that resolution because I submit that this House should give notice to the parliament that is afterwards to deal with the result of this conference, where we stand with regard to this question of diminution of representation; and we treat this question as it should be treated by recognizing the right of this parliament alone eventually to deal with this question. It seems to me also that we who come from the smaller provinces of the Dominion can fairly expect that when parliament comes to deal with this question and to legislate definitely and certainly upon it, parliament will recognize the changed condition resulting from the tremendous development of the Northwest, which was never foreseen by the fathers of confederation, and which necessarily affects this whole question of representation, and that the time will have arrived, in 1911, when we may fairly expect a complete review of this whole question of representation, with the result that after the next census justice in this respect will be given to the smaller provinces of the Dominion.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN (South York). Mr. Speaker, as one coming from the province of Ontario, I wish to say that while that province does not get, by the proposition before the House, all the territory which it thinks it ought to get, it will accept that territory and the responsibilities that go with it. The

Mr. MACDONALD.

province of Ontario does not believe that we have to-day reached the ultimate bound of civilization towards the north. The province of Ontario has accepted the view that there is a great and rich country to the north, and, while other people are talking about it, the province of Ontario is to-day building a railway to Hudson bay, and we hope to see an Ontario port on Hudson bay. The province of Ontario accepts all these responsibilities, and hopes to build up a great new northern Ontario in the added territory. I would like to see the other provinces take the same view. I believe that the province of Manitoba now receives the advantage of the extension of its boundaries to Hudson bay, and that it will go ahead and develop the country that is accorded to it. As to the question of representation, I was glad to hear the Prime Minister say to-day, what I have long contended for in this House, that while the British North America Act is a solemn document, it is not so sanctified that it cannot be reviewed by this parliament; and if it can be shown that the smaller provinces have not the representation which they think they ought to have, I believe that parliament is big enough, I believe that my own province and all the other provinces are big enough, to revise the constitution of the country and give a fair representation to the smaller provinces. I agree with what has been said here to-day, that it would be proper and fair, and in the line of harmony, to provide that the representation of the maritime provinces in this House should not be less than it was originally at confederation. We are all surely big enough to take that view. As to the amendments before the House, I would like to see the amendment moved by the hon. member for Colchester (Mr. Stansfield) accepted. It is simply an amplification of the proposal made by the government. If that view of it is taken, we shall have an expression that will represent the opinion of the whole House. The last amendment is on almost the same line; and if you can find a way to have a resolution that would meet all the interests in the House it would go a long way towards the settlement of this question. With regard to that northern country of ours, we do not know what is there; but the province of Ontario, in so far as it will exercise jurisdiction over it, will do whatever it can to develop it. Hudson bay, as has been said, is going to have much to do with the future development of this country. I hope that in a short time we shall have not only a railway from Ontario to Hudson bay, but one from the Northwest, and that the country lying south of Hudson bay will be developed and settled and the possibilities of mining, fishing and other industries in that country will be worked out and that these industries will be proved to be sources of wealth to the whole country. Again I would appeal to the House to see if there is not a way in