

statutes referred to by Mr. Anson, is, in another, more important; for while those statutes added many thousands to the polling list, they did not materially affect the proportionate voting of the various parts of the United Kingdom. The great significance of our case is that it is precisely the proportions that are affected.

*Three Factors:* We have then the concurrence of two factors, in the present situation—the proposal to legislate on a matter of very great importance, and an important change in electoral conditions. It may even be said that the synchronizing of these two factors produces a third, namely, that it is extremely probable that upon the subject of proposed legislation, the Provinces that have less than their proper proportion of representatives entertain views quite different from those of some of the Provinces that are in enjoyment of greater representation than they ought to have.

Under such circumstances ought the House of Commons to be dissolved, and a new election held—an election which would fulfill two purposes, namely: (1) the constitution of the House in accordance with the rights of all the Provinces, and (2) the ascertainment of the wish of the electorate upon the proposed subject of legislation. For myself, the only opinion I offer is that if legislation is undertaken without an election being held, the Prairie Provinces will probably be heard from.

*Personal:* Whatever may be thought of the points just raised, no one will be surprised if Mr. Monk (or anyone else) should agree with the view which Mr. Lowell tells us is sanctioned by the highest authorities. Mr. Monk, moreover, when the Laurier government was in power had, on several occasions, contended for the validity of that view. He has recently declared that he

"was absolutely pledged that nothing of such a character as was contemplated with regard to the naval question would be done without consulting the people, so that even if it had been somewhat more urgent we still would have the right to claim for the people the opportunity to express their opinion."

Holding such view and being bound by such pledge, Mr. Monk took the only course open to him. For fear of misunderstanding, I may add that as far as I am aware, Mr. Borden has never committed himself to a general election except as preliminary to the settlement of a permanent arrangement with the United Kingdom.