

Newfoundland

be unalterable. But, for instance, as to all our constitutional processes, language, qualifications for representation in this house, legal and moral customs and a host of other matters, all the safeguards from which we benefit at present could be swept away. Nearly all members of this house have personal knowledge of the heights to which passions can be roused on subjects about which, rightly or wrongly, there is deep feeling. Hon. members will recall with what suddenness, on occasion, reason is supplanted by the rule of emotion and ungoverned prejudice. I am sure, therefore, that on serious reflection hon. members on the other side of the house, as well as those on this side, will find that it is regrettable—indeed, that it would be dangerous—to attempt now to use the occasion of a desirable objective in order to bring compulsion or pressure of any sort to bear upon members on any side or in any part of this house to accept a principle so much at variance with the best principles and traditions of our constitutional history.

It is not enough to say that, by taking the stand which we take here, we are standing in the way of progress, because progress is not measured only in terms of material things. As I see it, progress is measured also in terms of the extent to which men, in seeking to accomplish and in actually accomplishing desirable objectives, nevertheless retain level heads and right motives, and follow right procedures.

In conclusion, I repeat that no one in this house is more sincere or desires more fervently than we in this party to see confederation completed. But we would not be true to ourselves, to the country, or to the province which we now seek to make a member of confederation if we allowed that to come about by methods such as these, so fraught with danger and possible bad consequences to ourselves and to these very people whom we are now trying to include in what we want to see, a happy, prosperous family of confederation.

Mr. Elphege Marier (Jacques Cartier): When the hon. member for Kamloops (Mr. Fulton) rose he said that he would explain the real meaning of the amendment proposed by his leader. He did not explain the amendment but instead spoke about the proceedings taken to make Newfoundland a part of our country. The hon. member said that the government ought to consult the provinces because the constitution of Canada requires it. The leader of the opposition said in his amendment:

Now therefore be it resolved, that the government of Canada be required to consult at once the govern-

[Mr. Fulton.]

ments of the several provinces and that upon a satisfactory conclusion of such consultations "a humble address be presented to His Majesty . . ."

That consultation took place many years ago. In 1864 the four provinces known as Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia met in Quebec city to discuss confederation. I hold in my hand a copy of the Quebec resolutions adopted in 1864, and on page 137 I find the following:

In the federation of the British North American provinces the system of government best adapted under existing circumstances to protect the diversified interests of the several provinces, and secure efficiency, harmony, and permanence in the working of the union,—would be a general government charged with matters of common interest to the whole country, and local governments for each of the Canadas and for the provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, charged with the control of local matters in their respective sections, provision being made for the admission into the union on equitable terms of Newfoundland, the Northwest Territory, British Columbia, and Vancouver.

When these provinces met in Quebec in 1864 they agreed that Newfoundland would be admitted into confederation then or at any time on equitable terms. Therefore they were consulted and they agreed, but they went further. On page 138 of the Quebec resolutions we find the following:

The colony of Newfoundland shall be entitled to enter the proposed union, with a representation in the legislative council of four members.

They provided for the number of members that would be in the legislative council to be formed when Newfoundland became a new province of the confederation.

In paragraph 12 they provided that the members of the Newfoundland legislative council should possess properties either real or personal. On page 139 of the Quebec resolutions we find the following:

The basis of representation in the House of Commons shall be population, as determined by the official census every ten years . . .

And that Newfoundland should have eight members. Therefore they provided for the number of members which Newfoundland was to have when she joined confederation. On page 142 of the same resolutions we find the following:

Until the consolidation of the laws of Upper Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, and Prince Edward Island, the judges of these provinces appointed by the general government shall be selected from their respective bars.

They went further and on page 146 they said:

Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island, not having incurred debts equal to those of the other provinces, shall be entitled to receive by half-yearly payments in advance from the general government the interest at 5 per cent on the difference between the actual amount of their respective debts at the