

## Newfoundland

I cannot move an amendment. I am in favour of having a tenth province, but I am definitely not in favour of moving six from one graveyard to another—over there—particularly when British Columbia is limited to its present number, six.

**Mr. Abbott:** Carried.

**Mr. Cruickshank:** No. And I presume with those seven members, and six appointed to the other place, if we were to carry this through to its logical conclusion, that would mean three and a half parliamentary assistants.

**Mr. MacNicol:** Too many of those now.

**Mr. Cruickshank:** So far as I am concerned, through you to the Prime Minister, Mr. Chairman, I strenuously object to the six members not elected from this population.

**Mr. St. Laurent:** Unfortunately the objection comes a little too late, because the provision for six members in the other place, in the event of Newfoundland's joining Canada, was enacted some thirty-three or thirty-four years ago. It was enacted at the same time as the provision was made that representation in this chamber should never fall below the number of members to which it was entitled in the Senate. It is for that reason that the province of Prince Edward Island is still entitled to four members in the House of Commons, although the quotient of representation for the rest of Canada would be something of the order of fifty odd thousand per member.

**Mr. Cruickshank:** Does not the Prime Minister think that right in this parliament we enacted an amendment whereby we did exactly the opposite to what he is stating? We are changing our redistribution at the present time. Quebec is getting more than she had before; and some of the other provinces will have more.

I am afraid the Prime Minister's argument does not hold good at all. This will mean six people we will have to look after in that little island over there—and a certain parliamentary assistant made a speech here not so long ago along the very lines I am following. If Prince Edward Island, with a handful of population, is entitled to four senators, then surely to goodness British Columbia is entitled to more than six. Surely we are entitled to more than that, when one of our larger centres has a greater population than either of these districts I have mentioned—including the new province entering confederation. I do not think the Prime Minister's argument holds good at all.

**Mr. Gibson (Comox-Alberni):** What the hon. member for Fraser Valley has said must bring closely to the attention of the Prime Minister the very urgent need for reform in the Senate, which was so often promised by his illustrious predecessor. It does seem fantastic that the maritime provinces—

**Mr. Knowles:** Where have you fellows been all night?

**Mr. Gibson (Comox-Alberni):** I thought you were interested in the reform of the Senate?

**Mr. Knowles:** On a point of order, we discussed this matter for an hour.

**Mr. Gibson (Comox-Alberni):** After all, in the maritime provinces, producing about the same amount of fish as British Columbia does, there will be 30 senators; yet we have only six senators. I can assure the committee that there are as many indigent politicians in British Columbia as there are in the maritime provinces.

Section agreed to.

Sections 20 and 21 agreed to.

On section 22—*Fisheries*.

**Mr. Knowles:** I wonder if the Minister of Fisheries would make some comment on the sections having to do with fisheries? This is one of the subjects connected with the coming into confederation of Newfoundland about which I have been reading and I have found it rather interesting, in fact almost intriguing. Such documents as I have read would seem to suggest that Newfoundland may be ahead of Canada in her legislative provisions for the marketing of fish. I understand that Newfoundland is to have the right to continue for another five years the arrangements that she now has. May I inquire whether the Department of Fisheries and the government generally will be considering the methods employed in Newfoundland with the possibility, should it be found that theirs are better than ours, of changing the Canadian laws.

**Mr. Mayhew:** I do not know whether you wish to call it eleven o'clock, but it will take longer than five minutes for me to give an adequate answer.

**Mr. St. Laurent:** Perhaps if the explanation will extend beyond eleven o'clock it might suit the convenience of hon. members if I moved that the committee rise, report progress and ask leave to sit again.

Section stands.

Progress reported.