

of the United States, and that we would have representation by population for the Dominion in the House of Commons and minority representation in the Senate. I would suggest—it is a matter on which I have not finally made up my mind—that perhaps it would be advisable we should make a further group west of Ontario to the Pacific ocean, so that there would be four groups. We would thus add another group of 24, allowing 6 senators for each one of the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia. That is a thing we might consider, because we must put some limit on the possibility of this parliament appointing senators, and should have the number decided by legislation as was done for the other parts of the Dominion.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Is this clause taken from the Manitoba Act?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Practically. I will read the corresponding section of the Manitoba Act, section 3:

The said province shall be represented in the Senate by two members until it shall have, according to the decennial census, a population of 50,000, thenceforth it will be represented by three members until it shall have, according to the decennial census, a population of 75,000; thenceforth it shall be represented by four members.

Here we provide that each province shall have four members with a possible increase to six.

Mr. BERGERON. There are four in Manitoba?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Yes.

Mr. BERGERON. How many in the Northwest?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. British Columbia 3; Manitoba 4; and the intention is to give Alberta and Saskatchewan 4 each.

Mr. BERGERON. I understood that Manitoba was only to have 3?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. It started out with two. Provision was made that it should be increased to four, and it has been increased to four.

Mr. BERGERON. The western group will still be much below the eastern group?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Not so much as the hon. gentleman imagines.

Mr. BERGERON. One will have nineteen representatives and the other twenty-six?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. The other will have twenty-four.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I have not given it consideration, but can we reserve power to ourselves to increase the representation? Has the minister thought of that?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Yes, it seems to me we have power to do that under the British North America Amendment Act, 1871.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I only make the suggestion, because I have not thought it over carefully; but the British North America Act of 1871 declares that it shall not be lawful for the parliament of Canada to alter the Act establishing a province—that is section 6 of that Act. I do not suppose that we could evade that provision by saying, for example, that the constitution of the province should be so and so until the parliament of Canada should otherwise order. But are we not doing something very like that under section 3?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. We undoubtedly have the right to provide for the representation of the new provinces in the Senate. That is provided for in this Bill by declaring that they shall have for the present, four members, but shall be entitled to increase to six when the parliament of Canada so decides.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. It is merely a question of fixing the time?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Yes. I think if the hon. gentleman will look at the extraordinary subsection of section 2 of the British North America Act of 1886, he will conclude that we have power to do almost anything.

Mr. LAKE. While four senators for the new provinces may be a fair number at present, still, I think the general scheme of distribution suggested by the Prime Minister may not be a very fair one in view of the future of the whole of western Canada, either as to area involved or as to the population which will inhabit that area. I would like to see provision in the Bill that parliament will increase the number of members beyond this in future.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Section 26 of the British North America Act may give that power. But it may be that section provides for increase in the three divisions existing, that, is the maritime provinces, Ontario and Quebec. On the whole, I think that section 26 cannot be construed as being applicable. But, in that case, the remedy would be by application to the imperial authorities.

Mr. BERGERON. This matter should be dealt with with great care. If I understand well the spirit of the fathers of confederation it was that the Senate was a kind of guarantee of minorities, and that was why it was given twenty-four members for Ontario, twenty-four for Quebec and twenty-four for the maritime provinces. If I understand my hon. friend from Qu'Appelle (Mr. Lake) he would like to see the Senate increase according to the population. But that is not in accordance with the spirit of the constitution, and I think it should be avoided. Of course, the representation in this House may increase.