

I may summarize it by saying that the total population of the Northwest Territories according to the census of 1901, is 158,940. British, 74,870; French, 7,040. The British is 47 per cent of the whole. Then come the Germans with 19,572, the Russians, 17,051, and then all others, which I suppose include all Indians and half-breeds, 28,610, or 18 per cent of the total population.

Mr. BERGERON. I suppose the British population referred to there would mean all Canadians.

Mr. BRODEUR. No; only English, Scotch and Irish.

Mr. BERGERON. What about the French Canadians?

Mr. SPROULE. There would seem to be only 7,040 French Canadians according to this book.

Mr. BERGERON. Does that mean French Canadians or French coming from France.

Mr. FISHER. Both together.

Mr. BERGERON. Then why do you class French Canadians with the French, instead of classing them as British?

Mr. FISHER. Because that statement is given according to origin.

Mr. BERGERON. The proper classification should be 'British.' The French Canadians of this country are Britishers. The entry is in the census report but it is not proper. There are a good many old country French people in the Northwest Territories and there are some districts settled by them. These are French, but when you come to classify the French Canadians you should put them in with the Irish, Scotch and England, as British subjects.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Why should you class with people coming from foreign countries, the French Canadians whose ancestors have been living in this country for 250 years?

Mr. FISHER. Because the tables are divided according to the origin and not according to the place of birth.

Mr. BERGERON. I do not approve of that.

Mr. FISHER. That may be.

Mr. BERGERON. It is my opinion that that classification of the French Canadians is not a proper classification. I protest against it. The French Canadians in this country are Britishers in the complete sense of the word. The ancestors of most of the French Canadians in Quebec have been here for 250 years, and how can you call me a Frenchman. I am entirely a Canadian, and I wish to be classed as a Canadian. It is misleading to say that the French Canadians are French.

Mr. LEMIEUX.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I will relieve the mind of my hon. friend at once. There are two tables in the census report, and in one table is given the nationality and that was read by my hon. friend from East Grey, and it led to his making the mistake he did. There are in the Northwest Territories only 246 of French nationality, but there is another column giving the origin of the people, and that gives different figures of course.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. That is a different thing, but it is not the answer of the Minister of Agriculture.

Mr. FISHER. One table gives the race origin and the other table gives the place of birth.

Mr. BERGERON. A stranger looking at the statistics of this census report would immediately want to know where the French Canadians are.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Here they are.

Mr. BERGERON. Where?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. They are under the heading giving the nationality.

Mr. LEMIEUX. I am very pleased to hear my hon. friend from Beauharnois say that he is a Britisher to the core, because I remember that some years ago when the Prime Minister went to England and declared in a speech that he was a Britisher to the core, my hon. friend (Mr. Bergeron) and his political friends and the papers published by the Conservative party in the province of Quebec, tried to fasten a crime on the right hon. gentleman because he had used that expression. I have heard my hon. friend himself in his own county stating: Sir Wilfrid Laurier is not one of us, see what he said in England; British to the core; he has renounced the nationality of his ancestors. And that can be read every day in 'Le L'Evenement' of Quebec, a paper published by the Conservative party.

Mr. BERGERON. It is very easy for the Solicitor General to make a man of straw for the purpose of knocking him down. He has attributed words to me that I did not use. I did not say I was British to the core; I said I was a British subject. I live under the British flag and you cannot class me as anything else than British. If you call me a Canadian then it is all right. That is the title I am most proud of, but if in the columns of nationality you class me as French, then it must mean that I am old country French, and that is not a correct description.

Mr. S. J. JACKSON. How far does your British go in if it does not go to the core.

Mr. BERGERON. I am answering my hon. friend the Solicitor General now, and