

sufficient number in the future is a thing that may be fairly debated. We must fix an arbitrary number of senators; we cannot go by population. I would have suggested twenty-four senators as in the case of the rest of Canada, but it may be that some hon. gentlemen think that twenty-four would not be sufficient ultimately. At present I do not think we can do more than we are doing under this Bill.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. The clear intention of the fathers of confederation was to keep the Senate within limits, and prevent its becoming too large and unwieldy.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Certainly.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Section 21 provides that the number of senators shall not exceed seventy-two, and the increase under section 26 is dependent on the fact that new senators should not be named until the number is reduced again.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. There is no doubt of that.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. The leader of the government suggests twenty-four senators for that group in the west, but you see how unfair it would be to Manitoba and to British Columbia if we gave to these new provinces one-half the total representation. We could not increase the number for British Columbia or Manitoba without the consent of the imperial authorities, and when it becomes necessary to apply to the imperial parliament to increase the number of representatives in the Senate, we will have to consider the whole question with respect to the new provinces and the provinces of British Columbia and Manitoba. On the whole it is rather better to keep the representation within limits for the time being.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Yes. The intention at confederation was that there should be some regard paid to population, but that the smaller provinces should have proportionately larger representation in the Senate than the more populous provinces.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. A future government might consider the advisability of cutting down the number of senators from Quebec, Ontario, and the maritime provinces and distributing them more equitably to the provinces in the west. I can see no reason in the world why Ontario should have twenty-four senators and Quebec twenty-four, and these western provinces with their great future population only six senators each. However, it is time enough to bid the gentleman good morning when you meet him.

Section 3 agreed to.

On section 4,

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I think we had better not tackle section 4 to-night.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. I would ask, with the permission of the House, to substitute

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another section for sections 4 and 5. The amendment will carry out the same principle as that involved in the printed clause, but it will express perhaps more clearly and correctly the intention.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Will the hon. gentleman read the amendment so that it may go on 'Hansard,' and every member of the House will see it?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. I intend to-morrow to move to substitute for clauses 4 and 5 the following:

4. The said province and the province of Saskatchewan shall, until the termination of the parliament of Canada existing at the time of the first readjustment hereinafter provided for, continue to be represented in the House of Commons as provided by chapter 60 of the statutes of 1903, each of the electoral districts defined in that part of the schedule to the said Act which relates to the Northwest Territories, whether such district is wholly in one of the said provinces, or partly in one and partly in the other of them, being represented by one member.

5. Upon the completion of the next quinquennial census for the said province, the representation thereof shall forthwith be readjusted by the parliament of Canada in such manner that there shall be assigned to the said province such a number of members as will bear the same proportion to the number of its population ascertained at such quinquennial census as the number sixty-five bears to the number of the population of Quebec as ascertained at the then last decennial census; and in the computation of the number of members for the said province a fractional part not exceeding one-half of the whole number requisite for entitling the province to a member shall be disregarded, and a fractional part exceeding one-half of that number shall be deemed equivalent to the whole number, and such readjustment shall take effect upon the termination of the then existing parliament.

2. The representation of the said province shall thereafter be readjusted from time to time according to the provisions of the fifty-first section of the British North America Act, 1867.

This applies the provisions of the British North America Act to the new Territories after the next quinquennial census, and it will be noticed that the readjustment can only take effect upon the termination of the then existing parliament.

Progress reported.

On motion of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, House adjourned at 12.30 a.m., Wednesday.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

WEDNESDAY, May 10, 1905.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

### LIBRARY AND PRINTING COMMITTEE.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I beg to move: