

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Very good; and we might take up section 5 now.

On section 5,

Mr. FITZPATRICK moved to substitute for section 5 the following:

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.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. That hardly seems to meet what I was suggesting to the minister a moment ago, and that was the possibility of a general election taking place before the quinquennial census of 1906. Suppose we should have a general election before the census of 1905, where will we be exactly in that regard?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. The present condition remains until the dissolution of this parliament, and if, at the dissolution of this parliament, the readjustment provided for has not taken place, there is no provision for changing the constituencies.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Would there be any practical difficulty in working the matter out? Even taking into consideration the fact that part of a constituency is in one province and part in the other, I do not think that there would; but sometimes we meet with difficulties that are not foreseen when we come to the practical working out of a stipulation which involves conditions we have not had before.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. I do not see how we can provide for it, and I do not see exactly what the difficulty would be. Of course, it is an anomaly that a member should represent a constituency partly in one province and partly in the other, but there really is nothing to prevent that, because the franchise for the election remains under our control and all the machinery connected with the election.

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY. Is this not the very best evidence that the boundary has been crowded a little too far west?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. What difference does that make?

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY. You could put the boundary where it would obviate that difficulty except a small part of West Assiniboia.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. It would be rather a curious departure from all principle that we should settle the boundary of a province according to the boundaries of a constituency.

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY. When dividing the country two years ago, you apparently thought that that section had a community of interest in the riding now in the western province; but according to the present dividing line, you apparently have changed your mind.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. I would like to ask the hon. minister if he can give us a fair idea of what he thinks the population of this province will be at this quinquennial census to be taken next year?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. The census of 1901 gives Alberta a population of 72,924. The estimated population on January 31st, 1905, is 173,043. The figures are all given in the 'Hansard' of yesterday, up to July next.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. Will it be fair to estimate that Alberta will number a quarter of a million when its census is taken next year?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Something in that vicinity.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. We are making provision for an addition of at least ten members to the House of Commons in the next parliament. At present the maritime provinces have 35 members; Quebec, 65; Ontario, 86; Manitoba, 10; the Territories, 11; and British Columbia, 7; or a total of 214. With this quarter of a million population added, Alberta will be entitled to at least 10 members and the adjoining province to about the same, so that there will be an addition of 10 seats in this House. Then the maritime provinces will have 35; Quebec, 65; Ontario, 86; Manitoba, 10; the Territories, 21; and British Columbia, 7; or a total of 224.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. The unit of representation will remain the same—23,000.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. So that if the new Territories, at this coming census, should have a quarter of a million, they would each be entitled to 10 members, and the 'forthwith' means that the census will be taken next year, so that either next session or the succeeding session that increase will take place.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. We might allow sections 5 and 6 to pass, with the understanding that if it be necessary to make provision for the difficulty mentioned by the