

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I may say to my hon. friend, that I trust that before bringing these schedules down and asking the House to pass them he will go carefully into the question himself. I am inclined to think he cannot have had correct information in relation to these schedules or he would not have presented them to the House. I do not pretend to know anything about them myself, but my hon. friends on this side of the House who came from the Northwest have looked into them pretty carefully and I am very much astonished indeed that my right hon. friend should seek to pass through the House these schedules if they are of the character which these hon. gentlemen have described to me. I have every confidence they are telling me exactly what they believe, and also that their belief is founded on a very careful investigation.

I would like to ask my hon. friend another question and it is this: It was suggested by the hon. Minister of the Interior (Mr. Oliver) when going to the west for re-election, that amendments, other than that which has been announced to the House by the government, might be made. I do not yet know whether or not we are to regard that as an informal notice that other important amendments are in contemplation by the government, but we have had some remarks in which there may be something or in which there may be nothing in the past few days that indicate that the remarks of the hon. Minister of the Interior were intended to have a certain significance. I would like to ask my right hon. friend whether there are any other important amendments now in contemplation by the government. I do not wish him to tell me that the Bills may be amended. I know that, but what I ask is whether there are other amendments now in contemplation by the government in respect to these measures which are before the House.

Rt. Hon. Sir WILFRID LAURIER (Prime Minister). In regard to the first of the two questions which have been put to me by my hon. friend (Mr. R. L. Borden). I have to say that my information in regard to the schedules is the same as his own. I got my information from my friends the same as he got his information from his friends. My information is very different from the information which he has received, and either his friends are astray, or my friends are astray, because they do not appear to agree. The constituencies have been marked on the map, and the work of describing them is merely clerical. The constituencies themselves which have been carved out seem to be fair as far as my information goes. In these matters, as in all matters, the government will always be prepared to receive suggestions which will tend to improve the Bill. I do not say that these suggestions will be ac-

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cepted, but the government will be prepared to accept all fair suggestions made from one side or the other. I am aware that nothing is so delicate perhaps as to carve out new constituencies such as these in a new part of the country, and even in the older parts of the country in such a way as to give absolute satisfaction. This is a task, which, in our past experience, has not been found to be practicable, but I believe it is the intention of the government to do substantial justice to all parties concerned. In regard to the Manitoba Bill, if that were to be a precedent, the policy adopted was to leave the constituencies practically to the new provincial government. We thought this would be perhaps liable to very serious abuse, that it would not be acceptable, and we could not see that there was any other policy than to have the schedules prepared here and to have the constituencies marked out. In regard to the other question of my hon. friend, I may say that up to the present time the government have not considered any amendment to the Bill. I do not say that we may not offer any, but no amendment has yet been considered.

Mr. FOSTER. Do I understand that these schedules will be printed?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Yes.

Mr. FOSTER. The Bills, I suppose, will not be pressed until they are in the hands of the members?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I will not say that. The schedules will not give much information of themselves unless they are accompanied by maps. Maps are being prepared and the schedules will be printed very shortly. They could be printed by to-morrow if necessary.

Mr. FOSTER. And the maps will be placed in the hands of hon. members?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I have sent one to my hon. friend (Mr. R. L. Borden) and we can have a few more for hon. members. Without a map the schedules would not show anything at all.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. I would like to ask the right hon. leader of the government (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) whether, when he says he has no amendments, he intends to amend the present franchise Act in regard to the way in which the voters' list is prepared in this country or whether he intends to continue the present system in these new provinces? There is enough experience of our present Franchise Act, of the way in which the names of voters are put on, and of the way in which the lists are prepared to call for a large measure of reform. This is an essential part of this Bill. When we are talking about constituencies we must take into consider-