

Mr. FITZPATRICK. No, the territory outside must be provided for. We have an Act especially to provide for the territory outside of the limit of the two provinces. I am now dealing with that portion of the Territories included in the provinces. Perhaps I could put it in another way to make my meaning clearer. The court remains as it is. The high court has its duties. They will remain and the court continues to be the high court for Alberta and Saskatchewan. But when the legislatures of the provinces constitute a different court, then, of course, we will have to make the usual provision.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. Section 15 stands.

On section 12,

Until the said legislature otherwise provides, the legislative assembly shall be composed of twenty-five members, to be elected to represent the electoral divisions defined in schedule B to this Act, having due regard to the distribution of population and existing local divisions.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I sent some few days ago—I think last Friday—to my hon. friend the leader of the opposition (Mr. R. L. Borden) a copy of the 25 divisions which are proposed, and I sent him at the same time a schedule containing the description of these constituencies. I now move this as the schedule to this section. In presenting this schedule I am quite aware that we are approaching a very delicate subject and one in regard to which it would be difficult to come to any unanimous conclusion if it is possible at all to come to anything unanimous upon this Bill. But, if we do not come to anything unanimous, I am not without hope at all events that we ought to be able to come to something like unanimity. We have taken the existing constituencies, in the Northwest Territories for the local legislature for a basis. In the territory to be included in the two provinces there are 35 constituencies at present, and we have had to add 15 more to give 25 in each province. I have heard some criticism that the distribution proposed is not fair, and I would be glad to invite the opinion of our friends on the other side, especially those from the Northwest Territories. I would like to have their criticism on the proposition made by the government which it seems to me ought to be reasonably satisfactory.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I was not aware that the schedules had been printed until I saw a copy in the hands of the First Minister just now, and I think this section had better stand until we have had an opportunity of considering these schedules as printed. This subject has been under consideration for a very long time by the members of the cabinet and their friends; it has been under consideration for but a very short time by hon. gentlemen on this side

Mr. HAGGART.

who, moreover, have not at their disposal the same convenience for obtaining information as have gentlemen opposite. I shall intimate to the Prime Minister when we have considered these schedules; it is of course necessary that we should have a reasonable time for that purpose.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I was in hopes that the ground might have been cleared by some general discussion to-day, but of course if my hon. friend is not prepared for that I will not press it. We could not of course conclude this question to-day, but I expected we might have had the objections, if there are any, from the gentlemen representing the Northwest Territories as to the general scope of the distribution.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. The hon. members from the Northwest Territories on this side together with some members representing eastern constituencies who have been endeavouring to assist them in this laborious work, have been actively engaged in attempting to thoroughly appreciate the meaning of these schedules. They have gone far enough to ascertain that some portions of the schedule are of a very unusual character, but their examination is not completed. I do not think any time would be gained by discussing this question to-day in a somewhat desultory manner for it would be better to have the criticism from this side of the House presented in a clear and terse manner. In the case of territories such as these into which immigration has been flowing at a very rapid rate, the census of 1901 can give us but very meagre information as to the actual population to-day. I would have thought that in this case above all others, it would have been proper to refer this question to some independent tribunal which could investigate and if necessary take evidence upon the subject, and in that way prepare a schedule, which whether it was satisfactory to one party or the other would at least have the merit of having been made by an independent tribunal and upon proper investigation and evidence. I had hoped the Prime Minister would pursue that course, and as he has not seen fit to do so we shall have to make our own investigation as best we may under very difficult conditions. I repeat that a decision cannot be arrived at by us in the same thorough and satisfactory manner, as if the suggestion which I have just made had commended itself to the Prime Minister.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Even if we were to accept the views of my hon. friend it would serve a good purpose that schedules should be prepared. I am satisfied that some of these schedules are unimpeachable and that not much criticism can be directed against the majority of them by hon. gentlemen opposite. Others of