

than the general average of five to a family could be applied with fairness to the Northwest.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. More.

Mr. FOSTER. Just think about it for a moment. Go through the ranching district and through the agricultural country as well, and you will find many of what are called bachelor families—men without their wives, two brothers, a father and a son, or something of that kind. I do not know that you find, outside of the foreign population, any larger families amongst the stated families there than you find here; and I am quite sure that the foreign population, while it totes up pretty large, would not overcome that disparity. If you take five, and multiply it by the voters' list of November, that would give you 150,000, and there is a great difference between 150,000 and 250,000. I do not know that it makes any particular difference whether you estimate it at the one figure or at the other, if you base it on the voting population of last year. But it forms the basis for a disappointment hereafter, if you make an estimate of 250,000 people, and find that there are 100,000 or more less than that number. I would like to know the basis on which the government came to that conclusion.

Mr. OLIVER. I am not able to say definitely by what process of calculation the number of 250,000 was arrived at, but I think it was something of this kind. I think the census shows approximately 170,000 in the old district of Alberta five years ago, and of course the new province of Alberta takes in a considerable strip of territory besides, for which an addition is made.

Mr. FOSTER. You have already given the population for the present Alberta as 69,441.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. I may say that when the time came to draft the Bill it was necessary to make some estimate of the population, and I proceeded by taking as a basis for the whole Northwest Territories the census of 1901. I found that census gave a population of about 165,000. Then to that I added the number of settlers that came into the country during the period intervening from the time the census was taken until the 1st of February last, and I found that number to be 240,590, according to the returns of the Interior Department. The details will be found in Sessional Paper No. 97 of this session:

Years	No. of settlers.
April 1, 1901, to July 1, 1901.. . . .	12,213
Fiscal year, 1901-02.. . . .	44,070
" 1902-03.. . . .	79,357
" 1903-04.. . . .	75,042
July 1, 1904, to February 1, 1905.. . . .	29,908
Total.. . . .	240,590

Mr. FOSTER.

To which must be added the census population of 165,555, making a total estimated population on the 1st of February of 406,145, to which I added, supposing the Bill would come into effect on the 1st of July, an estimated increase from February to July 1st of 50,000, making a total population of 456,145 for the whole territory. These figures are taken from the Department of the Interior, and were certified to by the deputy minister.

Mr. FOSTER. I do not know what we could exactly understand by persons actually settled. They could get out homestead entries, but homestead entries and settlement are two different things.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. I understand that. I obtained, for the purpose of the Bill, the area of lands patented for homesteads and a table showing the lands that remained and the number of settlers. It gave both the number of homestead entries and the number of settlers which were taken as actually having arrived and settled in the Northwest Territories, exclusive of Manitoba, within the area affected by our legislation. Then my own estimate of 50,000 was added on to that. I am informed by the gentleman who obtained these figures that they were given by Mr. Scott, who has charge of the administration of the immigration branch of the Interior Department.

Mr. OLIVER. The apparent discrepancy between the number of voters on the list and the estimated population may be accounted for in this way, that the names of foreign-born immigrants who have come in during the past three years, as having been read by the Minister of Justice, would not appear upon the voters' list, as they are not entitled to naturalization or to a place on the voters' list until they have been three years in the country. So for the last three years the immigration of foreign-born people is not accounted for in any degree by the number of voters on the list. I may say further that I have before me a statement of the number of homestead entries in the district of Alberta up to the 31st of March, 1905, amounting to 49,845. If it were taken for granted that each homestead represents a homesteader, and each homesteader a family, and each family the number of five, it would give a population of 250,000, not taking into account the cities.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. The government have no distribution of this 250,000 over these constituencies.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I do not think any information is needed so far as the representation is concerned. A large proportion of the population have voted for some time.

Mr. FOSTER. The post office data—if the minister will give us that.