

a claim, not to that extent, but exacting that no disposal of such territory should be made unless they are consulted in the matter. I understand, and I have reason to believe, that the province of Saskatchewan will lay claim to a portion of the territory. Of course, the province of Saskatchewan has no voice in the matter, it cannot speak officially now, but as far as the attitude of those who have a right to speak for it is concerned, I expect that such a claim will be made. As to the disposal of this territory, at the present time I have no suggestion to offer, and I do not know how far it would be possible for me even to say that I have an opinion in the matter. I have simply to say that I strongly sympathize with the province of Manitoba that its territories should be extended if it is possible to do so without doing an injustice to any other province.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I gathered from the figures, which, of course, it is difficult to follow when they are just read off, which the hon. Minister of Justice (Mr. Fitzpatrick) gave to us this afternoon, that during the last two or three years population has been flowing more rapidly into Saskatchewan than into Alberta. Possibly I may have been mistaken in conceiving that impression. Could the hon. Minister of Justice give me any assistance as to that?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. I have not the information here that would enable me to determine exactly the direction in which the tide of population has gone, but from the information I have here I would be rather disposed to think that immigration has been directed chiefly towards the northern part of Saskatchewan and the northern part of Alberta. I think you will find that it has followed railway construction in Saskatchewan. It has largely gone along the line of the Canadian Northern. The Canadian Northern Railway is being constructed through that part of the country.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I was endeavouring to get a comparison between the two provinces. The census population of Saskatchewan was 92,631 and the estimated population 241,000, showing an increase of nearly 150,000 since the census. The census population of Alberta was 72,924 and the estimated population 173,043, showing an increase of about 100,000. Is it likely that this relative increase will continue and that population will flow into Saskatchewan at about fifty per cent greater rate than into Alberta? That would be important information in relation to the question of the boundaries between the two provinces. It may be that this result is due to some temporary conditions such as railway development in Saskatchewan, but if it be likely to be a permanent ratio of increase it might have an important bearing as to location of the boundary.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. The increase in population is put down under the heading of 'homesteads' since 1901, and the relative figures would be Alberta 80,000 and Saskatchewan 140,000 which would seem to indicate a steady increase in population arising from the fact that people are settling there permanently. The movement of population into Saskatchewan may be due to the fact that there has been an increase of railway construction there for the last two or three years. I find that the population of Assiniboia East, which is entirely in Saskatchewan is 49,693; the population of Assiniboia West is 3,140 in Alberta and 14,552 in Saskatchewan. There has been an increase of population other than homesteaders of 13,000 in Alberta and only 3,000 in Saskatchewan.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. When the hon. gentleman mentions Saskatchewan, he is referring to the area within the proposed new province.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Yes. That is estimated from Waghorne's guide, a Winnipeg publication said to be reliable and which purports to show the movement of population in Manitoba and the Territories.

Mr. W. J. ROCHE. When the Minister of Justice quotes the number of homestead entries as an evidence of the increase in population, does he count each homestead entry as an increase of one in the population?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. I cannot say as to that. This information is submitted to me by the Department of the Interior and I will inquire and ascertain exactly about that.

Mr. W. J. ROCHE. It has been stated in the public press that the number of homestead entries in the west is no particular indication of the increased population because many of these homestead entries have been made by men who have come from the American side, bought land adjoining the entry, hold it for an increase in price, and many of them never come back to settle on the land. I had occasion to read from the Toronto 'Globe' a letter from a gentleman who located in a certain district years ago, and he gave this information with regard to many of these homestead entries.

Mr. BARKER. Is the Minister of Justice able to give us the increases in the present district of Assiniboia apart from the proposed province of Saskatchewan?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. The information I have is taken partly from the census and partly estimated. According to the census of 1901 the population of Alberta is 65,876; of Assiniboia East, 49,693; of Assiniboia West, 17,692; of Saskatchewan, 25,679; These are the Territories affected, excluding Athabaska, which should be included in