

Mr. FITZPATRICK. The conditions now are quite exceptional. We give to the Territories a representation not based upon a principle which is applicable to other portions of the country. We have given them ten representatives practically without regard to their population. When they come in as provinces it will be necessary to fix their representation upon the same principle as is applicable to the other provinces. We make provision that after the first quinquennial census when we have an opportunity to ascertain what their true population is, we shall then redistribute upon the basis of section 51 of the British North America Act which is applicable to the conditions existing in Quebec at the then last decennial census. When we have ascertained what they are really entitled to, they will get whatever representation they are entitled to and the representation will be re-adjusted upon a decennial basis. It is really fixing the period at which will be ascertained what the new provinces are entitled to and then the general law applies.

Mr. SPROULE. It may be that you will then reduce the number of representatives.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. If it is found that by their population they are not entitled to ten why should the representation not be reduced? Why should we, when after we have established these two provinces, not deal with them absolutely in the same way as we deal with the other provinces? If they are entitled to ten members let them have ten, but if they are not entitled to that number then their representation should be reduced.

Mr. SPROULE. We have always allowed greater representation to thinly settled districts of country than to densely populated sections. For instance, make a comparison between the representation of Toronto and that of the rest of Ontario. When the hon. member and his friends were passing the last Redistribution Act the basis of representation in Toronto was made about 45,000, whereas in other portions of the province it was only 30,000.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. I cannot have made myself clear. Of course with respect to the provinces they will be entitled to their proportionate regular number of representatives and the distribution of these will be made within the provinces and you can make what distribution you like.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. You simply take the unit of Quebec and divide the population of the province by it.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. That is all clear but there is something ahead of that. The situation is a little peculiar. When Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island or New Brunswick, was coming in you had a territory which had no representation in this parliament.

But these Territories come in under peculiar conditions because they are already represented in this House as territories. The object to be attained is to give them representation in this parliament as provinces under the British North America Act. I suppose you can do that by providing that the representation which they have had as territories shall be continued as their representation as provinces although in doing so you will have constituencies which cross the boundary line. That seems rather anomalous although I am not prepared to say that it could not be done. There is one step further. So far you have provided for their representation as provinces by declaring in the statute that their representation as territories shall be continued, you go just that far in section 4. Now you want to do something else, you want to provide for a readjustment, and the question about which I am still troubled a little is whether or not, having fixed their representation when they entered the confederation as provinces, you can readjust that representation except in accordance with section 51 of the British North America Act. I know the answer of the Minister of Justice, he says that he is practically doing it under the Act of 1871 by postponing the time. You are readjusting upon a quinquennial census although the British North America Act says you shall readjust under a decennial census. That is the point raised by my hon. friend from Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk), and about which I shall have a little difficulty, although I cannot say I have a strong opinion on the subject.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. We are doing what the hon. gentleman suggests and we are not doing it. He refers to the British North America Act and Prince Edward Island. When the provinces of Prince Edward Island and British Columbia came in they were given a fixed number of representatives, they each received six, if I remember right. Then there was a provision for readjustment under the terms of the British North America Act purely and simply. That is to say, they had a fixed number when they came in, and after that they were to submit to the rule applicable to all the other provinces. Conditions are different here. Here we have a territory to which we have given a fictitious, an arbitrary representation. We have said, you shall be entitled to ten, no matter what your population is. Now they are coming into the confederation, and it is important—and in this respect we are departing from anything done heretofore—it is important to ascertain the number of representatives to which they will really be entitled. There will be a quinquennial census taken next year by which we will ascertain what the true population of the two provinces is and when we have ascertained it that true population instead of having that arbitrary