

Is there anything unusual in that or is there any cause for an insinuation? It happens often that a discrepancy in figures can be explained, and this explanation will probably be had in a few minutes.

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY. In the statement annexed to the schedule which was sent to the leader of the opposition there is the following foot note:

Total population of census of 1901 in the two following constituencies, part of the district of Athabaska: Peace River, 800; Athabaska, 1,430.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. There is nothing very extraordinary in that. Probably these are the figures in 1901. I gave the figures which were furnished to me, and I assume them to be the population to-day.

Mr. FOSTER. Does the right hon. gentleman say the figures he gave are the population to-day or the population of the census?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I thought it was the population of the census but probably I am in error.

Mr. FOSTER. Then, after the quotation from the document, my right hon. friend has to come down from his high horse and to acknowledge now that what he told the House yesterday was not a fact. Yesterday he said that the figures 1,724 and 1,676 respectively, was the population at present, but now he revises himself and gives adhesion to the figures which are written down and to which, of course, he must adhere.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. What did I say yesterday?

Mr. FOSTER. Yesterday the impression the right hon. gentleman gave was that these were the populations at the present time.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. What did I say to-day which is not according to that?

Mr. FOSTER. I understood my hon. friend (Mr. M. S. McCarthy) to say that the figures which he read were the populations as given in the foot note sent over to the leader of the opposition.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. From the census? Is that any contradiction of what I say to-day?

Mr. FOSTER. Were the figures which the right hon. gentleman gave yesterday the actual population? How does he know the actual population to-day, and what means were taken to get it?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I said my impression was that the figures were for the population at present. I cannot carry these things in my mind from day to day; I received the information some time ago from the Census Department, and I sent it to the hon. the leader of the opposition. Subsequently other figures were placed in

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my hand, which I gave yesterday, and my impression is that these figures are the population to-day. As, however, these figures have been challenged, we have taken the precaution to have them verified in the Census Bureau, and as soon as the figures come here I will give the exact information.

Mr. FOSTER. So that after three months and some days, we may possibly now get at one of the most elementary sources of information necessary for discussing the basis of redistribution. Yesterday the Minister of the Interior promised to bring down his statement of populations from the Census Department. The populations he gave yesterday were, he said, prepared in the Census Department and signed and sent to him with a map, which he promised to bring down. Is that ready?

Mr. OLIVER. I did not understand the question in that way, and I regret that I have not given that order, but I will give it.

Mr. FOSTER. That is another sample of Ethelred the Unready. I quote from 'Hansard':

Mr. OLIVER. A map was prepared showing the local constituencies and the census department was asked to take that map, compare it with the returns and give us the result, the number of people in each constituency.

Mr. FOSTER. And the minister has that statement from the census department?

Mr. OLIVER. Yes.

Mr. FOSTER. Would the minister bring that down as one of the items?

Mr. OLIVER. I will bring it.

Of course, twenty-four hours is not long, but after three months and a half and nearing the end of the session, twenty-four hours might have been sufficient to get that statement into the hands of the minister.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I think I understand my hon. friend (Mr. Foster) now. There is the map there on the table, and he apparently is not satisfied with the information which he received from the department, but wants to have the identical document signed by the census officer.

Mr. FOSTER. Exactly.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Exactly; I understand what he means now.

Mr. FOSTER. We should have the details.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Oh, no; there is more than that; the hon. gentleman must not take refuge in that; he wants to compare whether or not the figures are correct.

Mr. FOSTER. And there is no better reason for that than these tergiversations we have had an example of to-day and yesterday.

Mr. INGRAM. I listened very carefully to the statement made yesterday by the First Minister as well as to the statement made by the Minister of the Interior. I