

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Yes.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. Well then, why not make provision just the same as you did in the case of Manitoba? Why should not the Northwest Territories have 24 senators if the population should become as great as that of Ontario or Quebec? Then of course the right hon. First Minister will make provision for the gradual abolition of the Senate to carry out his proposition, and no doubt he will want to carry out another plank in the old Liberal platform that partisanship shall not enter into the appointment of senators and we will expect him to appoint senators to these two new provinces half Tory and half Grit.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I have done so many things that are not pleasant to my hon. friend that I cannot do anything more of that kind. If we were to provide for the abolition of the Senate my hon. friend would object as he is objecting in regard to the school question.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. No, the hon. gentleman will be carrying out his promise in abolishing the Senate but not in regard to the school question.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. At the present time they have four senators representing the territory which shall be comprised in these two new provinces. If the Senate were to be abolished we might commence here, but I think that if we are not abolishing the Senate the only thing we can do is to do as we have done, and if members of the opposition object I would like them to point out in what way we can do better considering that these provinces at the outset have four senators each and cannot have more.

Mr. SPROULE. By what authority do you give the increased number? Clause 147 says that the maximum number shall be 82. Your arrangement will put the number away above 82.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Yes, it has been done long ago.

Mr. SPROULE. Under what authority do you increase the number?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Under the authority of the British North America Act, 1871.

Mr. SPROULE. Well this is the British North America Act of 1871 that I am quoting from.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. No, you are referring to section 146 of the Act of 1867.

Mr. SPROULE. Section 147. What section of the Act of 1871 gives the number?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Section 2, which provides for the creation of these provinces and for the number of members of the House of Commons and senators.

Mr. LALOR. How many senators now come from the districts of Alberta and Saskatchewan?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Four.

Mr. LALOR. They already have four from each of these districts?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. No, four altogether.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. At present the Northwest Territories are represented by senators Perley, Lougheed, Davis and Ross.

Mr. LALOR. There are four senators from that district?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Yes.

Mr. LALOR. And this new Act provides that there shall be 12?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Possibly.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. The new Act provides for 8 immediately when the Act comes into force and for an increase to 12—from 4 to 6 for each province.

Mr. INGRAM. What population will be necessary after the next census?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. The question of population is not taken into account in so far as representation in the Senate is concerned.

Mr. GALLIHER. While we are dealing with the representation in the Senate of the new provinces that are being formed, and while we cannot increase the representation from Manitoba and British Columbia, because I understand it is fixed by the imperial statute, it strikes me that at this present time, or as soon as imperial legislation can be obtained which will give a limit of 24 senators to the west, it should be secured. Of course, I understand, to bring the representation in the Senate up to that figure, we would have to seek an amendment of the Act by imperial legislation, in so far as Manitoba and British Columbia are concerned, but I do think that as soon as that legislation can reasonably be obtained—it might be this year or it might be next year—we should at least have a representation of 24 from that western country.

Mr. INGRAM. When I asked the hon. Minister of Justice what population would be necessary to have that number of senators after the next decennial census, I understood him to say in effect that population did not govern it in any way at all. Does this section really mean that they will have four senators now and that after the taking of the next decennial census the number will be increased to 6 in each of these new provinces without any legislation in this House or any place else?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. As the Territories now stand they have four representatives