

The provinces are doing that now. But that could be changed. This government could take to itself of everything pertaining to immigration.

Section 98 says.

The judges of the courts of Quebec shall be selected from the bar of that province.

That is a special privilege. That also might be changed.

Section 133 pertains to the English and French languages. That might be changed too. I am one of those who believe that all these provisions in the British North America Act should be inviolable. I believe that these contracts which have been entered into with the province of Quebec and other provinces should not be changed. I do not believe that the province of Quebec would have come into confederation if they had thought that these contracts would be so lightly changed. I am a supporter of this clause preserving the use of the French language and of any other clause pertaining to the province of Quebec. But if you open the door wide to change, then, no matter what anyone else says, each and all of these provisions can be changed if you change the cornerstone and copestone which is section 51. Violate that and all the rest can be violated just as easily. I agree with the hon. member for Lake Centre that you have to go very carefully in making changes. It is a serious thing to violate the main clause of the British North America Act.

Representation by population has been mentioned in this debate. I am in favour of representation by population, if fair. I see that my hon. friend the member for Nipissing (Mr. Gauthier) is having a good laugh. But the premier of Quebec has announced his opposition to this bill, so that I am in pretty good company in opposing the bill.

So far as representation by population is concerned, are you going all along the line with it if you pass this bill? Let me give some figures to show how alleged representation by population is actually working at the present time. I think Canada is conspicuous throughout the world as one state where representation by population is not observed the least so far as the constituencies are concerned. I know no place in the world where there is less representation by population than in Canada. In Nova Scotia four constituencies have more than the quota of representation, and eight are under the quota. The highest number of people in any constituency in the province is 85,000, and the lowest, 27,000. You would not call that representation by population.

[Mr. MacNicol.]

In New Brunswick there are three constituencies over the quota, and seven under. The highest number of people to any constituency is 78,000, and the lowest, 24,000. You would not call that representation by population.

In Quebec twenty-seven constituencies are over the quota, and thirty-eight below the quota. The highest number of people to any one constituency is 93,000, and the lowest, 22,000. It does not seem fair to me that it should require 93,000 people in one seat to balance 22,000 in another seat.

Mr. LALONDE: That is why we want more members.

Mr. MacNICOL: That has nothing whatever to do with the matter. In Ontario there are thirty-four constituencies over the quota, and forty-eight under. The highest number of people to a constituency is 113,000, and the lowest, 19,000. There is little representation by population there.

Mr. GAUTHIER (Nipissing): Which constituency has 113,000?

Mr. MacNICOL: That is Nipissing. My hon. friend knows that because I told him that. That is why I often said that his predecessor should be given double the indemnity for having so many people to represent. It was not the fault of the last government. I did my best to provide Nipissing with two members, but for reasons that it is not necessary to go into now that was not done.

Manitoba has five constituencies over the quota, and twelve under. The highest number of people to a constituency is 71,000, and the lowest, 23,000.

Saskatchewan has three constituencies over the quota, and eighteen under. The highest number of electors to a constituency is 59,000, and the lowest, 33,000.

Alberta has five constituencies over the quota, and twelve under. The highest number of people to a constituency is 58,000, and the lowest, 26,000.

British Columbia has nine constituencies over the quota, and seven under, and the highest number of people to a constituency is 77,000, and the lowest, 25,000.

Nipissing is the constituency in Canada which has the highest number of people, 113,000, and the lowest is also in Ontario, with 19,000. There are ninety ridings in all Canada that are over the quota, and 150 below the quota. You will not find a situation like that in any other democratic country. We now have a chance to make a proper redistribution.