

there is the white population, why have you not done it?" We were not prepared to forego our pledges in this matter; but what could we do but do exactly as we did? There is no great harm done in postponing this matter to the next session. We shall have to then, if the census cannot be relied upon, get our returns from somewhere else, and bring forward a measure for the purpose without regard to the Island, and without regard to the Mainland or anything else except justice to the people. (Cheers.) I wish to quote a further telegram since the House rose, by which you will see how thoroughly in good faith the Government is in this matter. As I said, we were satisfied that there was some mistake in these returns, while at the same time we had Mr. Lowe's statement that they were correct, and which we were not in a position to prove was wrong. I have been told, and it may be an explanation of the matter, that Mr. Lowe's figures, which he gives, are arrived at by deducting certain Indians which he ought not to deduct; that he had deducted some 11,000 Indians as whites that are really Indians; and that there ought to be added 11,000 to the population of the Mainland of British Columbia. This may be the result; but allow me to tell you that when the truth comes out, you will have, and this country will have, the benefit of it; because I tell you that redistribution as between Mainland and Island will be chiefly according to population. (Cheers.) We have been blained because we did not immediately jump to an explanation which Mr. Brown gave in the matter. How could we have jumped to his conjectures without getting more accurate returns? We don't want guess work; we want facts. [Hear, hear.] We want returns so that we can keep our promise. The consequence is that we were bound to get accurate returns. What do we find is the position of our assailants in this matter? You will find it in this morning's *News Advertiser* under the heading "Census Farce," the following:

According to a dispatch from our correspondent at Ottawa, which we published on Sunday, the Finance Minister of this Province has been compelled to accept the census returns from British Columbia as substantially correct.

Now, I beg to say that Mr. Turner has been obliged to do nothing of the kind. Mr. Turner has gone East, and one of his principal objects is to find out how this census matter stands. It may be that the census will be acknowledged to be correct as regards the number in the Province taken as a whole—white men, Indians, Chinese and all—and in that view of the matter it may be perfectly right; but to accept the classification as correct is a very different matter, and that is what Mr. Turner has gone there for—to ascertain the classification; to find out whether, after everything has been investigated, Mr. Lowe still insists on adhering to the figures; and if he finds out he is wrong, to discover where the discrepancy lies. I may tell you that the returns in this Blue Book seem to be mixed up so as to

conceal the true classification in the Province, yet I am assured by the enumerators themselves that when we get the returns you can find out exactly how many Indians have been included. I thought at one time I had found something. I came across a column where they gave the nationality both of the father and mother; and although there are some white children whose fathers and mothers have both been born in the Province, yet they are not very many, and you can judge whether they are whites or not; but we found out that those born in British Columbia are simply classed as Canadians, so the number of Indians, so far as the book is concerned, is simply sealed. If you will take the returns, you will be able to find out the truth of the matter. The *News Advertiser* goes on to say:

No one who has given any amount of study to the question ever entertained the idea for a moment that he could do anything else. Neither, we may believe, did the Finance Minister himself nor the remainder of his colleagues in Victoria. The stupid blunder of deducting about 12,000 Indians from the population of the Mainland who had never been included in the census returns had merely to be exposed to completely upset the flimsy pretext for deferring a measure of redistribution.

Now, if that be the correct view of things, who is the blundering party? Is it the Government? All we have done is to send to those parties to give us the returns, what were the Indians, what the Chinese and what were the number of the whites and he has assumed to give them, and if there is any mistake it is there, not with us. Now allow me to read the last telegram from Mr. Lowe:

April 18, 1923.

J. Lowe, Ottawa, to Hon. The Hon. Premier: Population British Columbia absolutely as follows: Vancouver Island—Indians, 5,325; Chinese, 3,182; whites, 28,230; total, 36,737. Mainland—Indians, 29,431; Chinese, 5,727; whites, 26,415; total, 61,406.

This is the return that the *News Advertiser*, the organ of the agitators here, says has to be taken as correct, and that no sensible man can suppose anything else. The facts I am telling you, and what is more, I am going to give a copy of those documents to everyone who wants them by which you can see for yourself. Have I ever pinned my faith to that return? Have I not said from the first that I believed that the returns are wrong and inaccurate? Now, I know that to every reasonable person in this audience I have given a satisfactory explanation of this matter of redistribution. The Government could not have done otherwise than it has done, and every honorable man should uphold me in this matter. Anyone who has not his feelings, his reason and convictions blinded by prejudice will see that the Government is honest in the course it has taken, and I hope you will take these documents and read and digest them, and ascertain whether the Government is right or wrong on the stand it has taken on the question of redistribution. If you go through the census you will find that great pains are taken to divide every district up,