

revision of the voters' list will take place, and we will endeavor to see that the revision will be thorough. Then there were other things we might have proceeded upon, for instance, the number of school children on the Mainland and on the Island and in the different districts. Unfortunately, that gave no indication whatever. You would have found the numbers on the Island were slightly in excess of those on the Mainland and for months you would have found it to be about even—very little distinction between them.

The School Going Population.

I saw Dr. Pope, the Superintendent of Education, and I think he showed me there was a difference of just about nine in school children. We took the registry of births, deaths and marriages for the purpose of seeing if we could arrive at a conclusion in this matter, and that was not satisfactory; in fact, the preponderance on the Island was shown to be over and above the Mainland. I could very well understand how this may be. Upon Vancouver Island the returns could more accurately be got at, whereas on the Mainland you have not the returns so accurately. That being the case, I could understand why it was found that there was a greater preponderance of births, deaths and marriages than upon the Mainland. So in these matters I did not feel the test would be a just one, and it was decided to wait until the census was arrived at, and when that was received we would know exactly what to do. I have read you what occurred. Now, the Dominion census, or final return of the Dominion census which was issued some time last month, shows the total population of the Province to be 98,178 people. We had bulletins issued from time to time before that, which gave the population at that same figure, but it was not in the condensed form that you have it now. Now, when the House was opened, there seemed to be sufficient data to form a Redistribution bill. Our intention was to be governed principally by population, so far as Mainland and Island were concerned. We found that the returns showed, on the Mainland 61,406, on the Island 37,767, of which 61,406 42 126 were in the district of New Westminster, including the city of Vancouver and this city and outlying districts. That made a very favorable showing for New Westminster district. While the census gave the nationalities the bulletins showed nothing whatever to indicate the race of any one, and there was no distinction between the child of a white man or of an Indian. They were simply classed as British Columbia born, and that is what you find to be the case now. We, as I have said, took the general returns and came to the conclusion that the return justified the redistribution, and I think you will see that the promise was made in good faith by the Government. Most certainly if we had not intended to carry out our promise we would simply

have been silent, and we could have done that with some show of reason and justice. It is true that the Hon. Mr. Robson had made this promise, but we could have said, "We are not bound by Mr. Robson's promise to bring in an act for redistribution." That is the position we could have taken, but having determined to bring in a redistribution measure, we had no hesitation in promising it. Now after the session had opened we had to go into the returns closely, because we had to draw our act, and justify ourselves to the House and country. The first thing that came to our attention was the Indian figures. We at once sent a telegram to Ottawa to find out how this matter stood and I shall place in your hands to-night a paper showing the telegrams which passed between the Government of the Province and Ottawa:

February 26, 1893.

Hon. J. H. Turner to J. Lowe, Deputy Minister Agriculture, Ottawa: Please wire total of Indians on Mainland, B. C. Also total Indians on Vancouver Island.

February 27, 1893.

J. Lowe, Deputy Minister Agriculture, to Hon. J. H. Turner: Total Indians on Mainland, 29,460. On Vancouver Island, 5,742.

February 27, 1893.

Hon. J. H. Turner to J. Lowe, Ottawa: Does total population of B. C. given in Bulletin 5 include Indians?

February 28, 1893.

J. Lowe, Ottawa, to Hon. J. H. Turner: Population in Census Bulletin relative B. C. includes Indians.

February 28, 1893.

Hon. J. H. Turner to J. Lowe, Ottawa: Please wire number of Indians in each of the five B. C. districts.

March 1, 18 3.

J. Lowe to Hon. J. H. Turner: Following subdivisions by agencies, Indian population slightly in excess of figures given. West Coast, 2,864; Cowichan, 2,048; Kerakeweth, 1,905; Okanagan, 878; Williams Lake, 1,803; Fraser River, 4,338; Kamloops, 2,401; Kootenay, 686; Northwest Coast, 4,001; Babine, 2,645; bands not under agency, 11,796.

March 24, 1893.

Hon. J. H. Turner to J. Lowe, Ottawa: Your telegram of the 27th February gives total Indians, Mainland, 29,460; Island, 572. Bulletin gives total population B. C. 98,178. Deducting Indians, this leaves white population B. C. 62,971. Is this correct? State how many whites on Island and how many on Mainland. Please wire reply as soon as possible.

March 24, 1893.

J. Lowe, Ottawa, to Hon. J. H. Turner: Whites on Island, 31,025; on Mainland, 31,916.

Startling Returns---Government's Policy Vindicated.

Now, this was rather startling, and indicated a discrepancy somewhere or another; but exactly how to get at the matter we could not tell. These were the official returns we had before us. Had we attempted to bring down a bill based on anything else than the white population, every man in the country would have condemned us; had we refused to be guided by the census and the interpretation of the census placed upon it by those put there to interpret it, we would have been condemned, and justly too, by every person on the Island. They would have said, "You have promised us representation on the white population;