

Mr. LEMIEUX. I would not like to stand very long with my hon. friend because if so we would have to fall together. But it would be more practical on the part of my hon. friend from Jacques Cartier, instead of agitating for rights that do not exist except in his own imagination, to agitate on behalf of 200,000 French Canadians who live in the province of Ontario. But, he will not do that because it would be an attack upon the constitution which this country gave itself in 1867. As my right hon. friend the Prime Minister said the other day in this House, the French Canadians of Quebec will not ask for more than they are entitled to, and under the present circumstances I say to my hon. friend from Jacques Cartier that he is rendering no service to his fellow citizens of the province of Quebec by trying to arouse the feelings of the people over this vexed question.

Mr. MONK. I would like—my hon. friend to quote some words or speech or something which would show that I have any intention of agitating or that I ever have agitated.

Mr. LEMIEUX. The fact of bringing up this motion.

Mr. MONK. Is a man agitating the province because he brings up a legitimate subject of inquiry such as this?

Mr. LEMIEUX. The very fact of bringing up this motion is the beginning of another agitation in the province of Quebec, because, in that province, we have two apostles, one, the apostle of denominational schools, my hon. friend from Beauharnois (Mr. Bergeron), and the other the apostle of the French language, my hon. friend from Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk). It is a holy alliance and I hope it will be blessed, but I fear it will not be blessed by the electorate. Now, I shall read the figures which I have here in order that I may have the opportunity of quoting them when we shall meet these two hon. gentlemen before our own people. The figures which I hold in my hands show conclusively how few French Canadians there are in the west. What is the population of the French Canadians in the Northwest Territories? I have here the official figures.

Mr. MONK. For what year?

Mr. LEMIEUX. For the year 1891.

An hon. MEMBER. 1901.

Mr. LEMIEUX. I will begin with 1891, the year after the McCarthy Bill came up in the House. At that time the total population of the Northwest Territories was 66,799. The French Canadians only numbered 1,543, a little more than two per cent of the total population. In 1901 the total population, according to the census of that year, was 158,940. The French population

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numbered 7,040, a little more than four per cent; the German population 19,572, more than twelve per cent; the Scandinavian, 5,390; the Russians 17,050, more than ten per cent; the Austro-Hungarian 6,407, a little more than four per cent. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, we would be asking a special privilege for the French Canadian element in the Northwest Territories when at the present time, they are not even five per cent of the total population, when they have no guarantee, when there is no treaty, no covenant, no right whatsoever to that special privilege. Under these circumstances, I say it again the hon. gentleman (Mr. Monk) is not rendering a service to his fellow countrymen in the Northwest Territories; he is simply trying to catch a few votes in the province of Quebec.

Mr. SPROULE. Where did the Solicitor General get his figures as to the French population. I have here the census of 1901, and the figures seem to differ from his.

Mr. LEMIEUX. I have the figures given me by Mr. Blue, census commissioner.

Mr. SPROULE. According to the census report there would appear to be only 246 French in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. LEMIEUX. I suppose that would mean the French people from France.

Mr. SPROULE. It is in the column under the heading 'French,' and I find no column giving the French Canadians.

Mr. LEMIEUX. I have here a statement showing the population of the Northwest Territories in 1901, in the electoral districts of Alberta and Saskatchewan classed as French and all other races, together with their percentages. I would ask the permission of the House to have it published in 'Hansard.'

Statement showing the population in 1891 and 1901 of that portion of the Northwest Territories comprising the proposed provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, together with the number and per cent of French and other races of the population.

Races.	Census of 1891.		Census of 1901.	
	Pop.	p. c.	Pop.	p. c.
Total.....	66,799	100	158,940	100
British.....			74,870	47.00
French.....	1,543	2.31	7,040	4.00
German.....			19,572	11.92
Scandinavian.....			5,392	3.28
Russian.....			17,051	10.38
Austro-Hungarian.....			6,407	3.90
All others.....	65,256	97.69	28,610	18.00

Note.—The census of 1891 made no record of the people by origin or race saving French Canadians.