

Although I cannot say I have personal knowledge of each of the persons in question, I can say definitely that from my own constituency there were thousands who had gone to Nova Scotia or to other points, possibly Goose Bay, although perhaps they would not take their wives to that point. I do know for certain, however, that from Ontario many of them went to the maritime provinces and did take their wives and their children with them. Those people were not in Ontario at the time of the census enumeration in 1941. I know I am safe in saying that, counting those who went to the Pacific coast and those who went to the maritime provinces and overseas, there were thousands who were dislocated. So that I say the dislocation of population in Canada in 1941 was substantial. The census enumeration of that year was a most unfair basis upon which to establish parliamentary representation.

Not only that, I know of many who came to my constituency from the western provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. I have in mind—and I shall not mention names—three ladies whose husbands had come to the east to work in war industry in the city of Toronto. These three ladies lived in the constituency of Davenport. One of them had a family of three children, or a total of five in the family. Another brought her mother with her and, counting her child, made up a family of four. The third was of a family of three. There were hundreds, perhaps thousands, of similar cases.

Later, I shall place on record figures showing the numbers who left Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Many of them went to British Columbia and many others came to Ontario. Those enlistments materially affected the balance of population in the three western provinces.

I mention that because I do not believe the government would have attempted to bring in the resolution if two of the western provinces were not going to lose seats as a result of that census. But the government saw that the provinces of Saskatchewan and Manitoba would lose seven seats. The government anticipated support from members from Saskatchewan and Alberta, with the exception of course of the brave member who represents Lake Centre—

An hon. MEMBER: Brave?

Mr. MacNICOL: Yes, I say that. He stood up like a major-general this afternoon and defended a principle—and it takes backbone to defend a principle, at any time.

[Mr. MacNicol.]

The population was badly dislocated, and those two provinces, both Saskatchewan and Manitoba lost heavily. The result was that the government anticipated that it had friends who would reach out and try to grab or to hold on to the seven seats which they would not have, if redistribution proceeded on the present basis. The government expects support from that quarter.

If one examines the census returns of 1941, what does he find? He finds that Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia are affected one way or another. In looking through this census I direct the attention of the house particularly to the age groups of 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39 and 40-44, the groups from which the working men are taken, or from which people were dislocated and came to Ontario, British Columbia or elsewhere. What does one find in these groups. He finds that of the four western provinces, British Columbia continued to advance rapidly, not in the aggregate, but in proportion to the other three provinces. For instance, in 1941 in the age group twenty to twenty-four years British Columbia had 69,247; Alberta had 78,358; Saskatchewan had 85,097 and Manitoba had 69,273. In that ratio British Columbia had the lowest number, but when you consider all those age groups you find that British Columbia had the highest number of the four provinces, that it had advanced more than any other of those four provinces in the age groups forty to forty-five, thirty-five to thirty-nine and thirty to thirty-four and it was only exceeded by Saskatchewan in the age group twenty-five to twenty-nine. What does that mean? It means that a great number of people in those age groups had left the prairie province, either to go into the armed services or to work in the factories of Ontario or British Columbia. The number of people working in factories increased considerably in those two provinces.

It is wholly unfair to have a redistribution that will so seriously affect the provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan. We should not base redistribution on a census taken when so many of their men either were working in war factories or had entered the armed services.

Mr. MITCHELL: They were in Ontario voting socialism.

Mr. MacNICOL: I will give you Ontario by itself. What was the result there? In 1939, prior to the war there were 400,000 unemployed in Canada, but in 1941 the number of those engaged in war work alone was 1,021,000. That showed a great change in what the populace was doing. As I said a moment ago, many of those workers came from the western provinces, particularly Manitoba and Saskat-