

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.
OFFICIAL SYNOPSIS OF PROCEEDINGS

(Continued.)

(To be continued.)

In moving the second reading of the Re-Distribution Bill the PRIME MINISTER said in part: Mr. Speaker, the total population of Newfoundland in 1921, according to the Census, was 259,259. The percentage of increase 1911 to 1921 was less than seven per cent., the smallest for 30 years. The population of Conception Bay (except Bell Island) has not increased in 20 years. In Port de Grave, Harbour Grace and Carbonear Districts, a slight decrease has occurred, and in Bay de Verde the increase has been small. North and West of Avalon, on the main island, there has been an increase. A re-distribution of constituencies, for representation in the Assembly, is therefore necessary, increasing those in the North and West, and it is desirable that a division of those large districts, each represented by three and two members, should take place.

In any plan for re-distribution, it is desirable to bear in mind certain almost fundamental considerations, as for instance—

- The religious denominations to which the people of various sections belong;
- The great extent of certain existing districts, and the need of division;
- The trade and social intercourse between localities, so as not to unduly disturb them;
- The occupations of the people, and the importance of securing representation of various industries; and, finally,
- The history of existing constituencies, so as to preserve their historical continuity as far as convenience will permit.

Re-distribution of seats in the Assembly has been a slow process. The Districts of St. George's and St. Barbe were created in 1878, thus enfranchising the people of the French Treaty Coast (so-called) but otherwise the changes have been

slight from 1872 or previously. In 1873 the District of Twillingate and Fogo was given three members instead of two, and in 1885 Fogo was created a separate district, with one member. In 1890 the Representation Act delimited all the districts as they at present exist.

In 1891 the population was 202,040, or 5611 per member. In 1901 it was 220,984, or 6141 per member. In 1911 it was 242,619, or 6806 per member, and in 1921 it was 259,259 or 7222 per member. In the proposal now submitted, provision is made for an increase of four seats, or a total of 40, which gives 6500 as the average per member, of the number of people according to the Census of 1921. An increase of membership in the Assembly may be objected to as tending to increase the cost of elections and sessional pay, but the objection should yield to the arguments in favor of the increase.

For instance, the Roman Catholic population of the Island numbers 86,151, or about one-third of the total, and as denominational interests are very jealously regarded in this Colony in relation to political matters, it is of first importance to secure, if possible, such a redistribution as shall provide that one-third of the new districts shall have a Roman Catholic majority. Minorities are naturally jealous of the preservation of their rights, and every reasonable effort should be made to guard them.

Outside of Avalon and the St. George district, the Roman Catholic people are so scattered that it is not reasonably possible to create constituencies in which they have a majority. But in the Districts of Placentia, Ferryland and Harbour Main, now represented by seven members, they have clear majorities, and for the six seats in St. John's East and West it has been usual, by an understanding or convention between parties, to return five Roman Catholic members, making, with St. George's, thirteen Roman Catholic seats. The population of St. John's East and West, according to the present boundaries, is 52,158, of which 26,172 are Roman Catholics, or very slightly over one-half, so that there is, in fact, no

reliable denominational majority in the city. To re-arrange St. John's East and West so as to provide sufficient districts with a Roman Catholic majority has been difficult, but the proposal now submitted has carved out four districts—

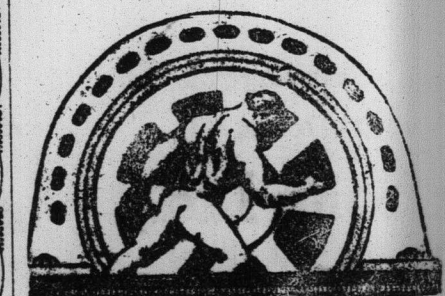
St. John's City (West) 2
St. John's East (Extern) 1
Bell Island 1

With such a majority, and by adding a second member to what is left of St. George District, the twelfth Roman Catholic majority has been provided. Those, with one of the two seats in St. John's City (East) would give the thirteen Roman Catholic seats.

Port de Grave, Harbour Grace and Carbonear have smaller populations than in 1901, and Bay de Verde has an increase of about 450 only. The three former districts also decreased between 1901 and 1911, while Bay de Verde increased only about 400 in the same period; that is to say, for twenty years the population of these four districts has lost its natural increase by migration or emigration. Harbour Grace, which has three representatives, must lose one, and Carbonear and Bay de Verde, which together have three, must also lose one. On the other hand, Trinity, Bonavista, Twillingate St. Barbe and St. George districts have increased in population, and require increased representation.

In any scheme for re-distribution, a very important thing to be borne in mind is the extensive coast line of the large electoral districts on the East, West and South Coasts of the main island. The settlements in these are so scattered, and the mileage is so great, that it is quite difficult and almost impossible for representatives to pay proper attention to the wants of the people, and division into constituencies smaller in area is practically essential. The need of dividing St. Barbe and St. George, because of their great extent, and of creating a new district by division of Burgeo and Fortune, are reasons justifying the increase of seats to forty. On the South Coast, the districts of Burgeo and LaPoile and of Fortune Bay, are very extensive. The places are very numerous and the population of each very small. It seems desirable to make a new constituency out of the eastern part of Burgeo and LaPoile district and the western part of Fortune Bay district, which new constituency we will call "Hermitage Bay." Even with three districts where two were before, candidates will have no easy task to visit their numerous places.

The industry at Grand Falls has within recent years put a large population into the District of Twillingate, and these people have little in common with the other inhabitants of the district, who are chiefly fish



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ermen. A new constituency called "Exploits", extending from Botwood on the east to Millertown on the west, is, therefore, now proposed. The Humber industry bids fair to create similar conditions in the Humber region, now a part of St. George district, and as the population of this district, and its area, justify increased representation, a new constituency has been created, called "Humber," including Bay of Islands and the Humber River section, as far east as Millertown. The remainder of St. George is divided into the districts of Port au Port and St. George, divided by the river St. George. This section of the Colony may be expected to increase rapidly in population. Port au Port is given the Roman Catholic seat which Ferryland loses. Trinity Bay has been divided into South Centre and North, and that part of the Bonavista Peninsula which includes Catalina and Bonavista sections, has been created a constituency by itself. South and Centre constituencies (which latter would include all the Islands in the Bay from Little Denier Island to Greenspond, inclusive), have been created, and "Bonavista North" will include the mainland from Hare Bay, "The Straight Shore" of Fogo, as far north as Ladie Cove, and all the adjacent islands east of Greenspond. The population of Fogo is above the number which would be represented by one man, and the inclusion of Fogo in Bonavista North coincides with the relation of the people and the geographical position.

Twillingate will consist of the two Twillingate Islands and New World Island, inhabited almost wholly by fishermen. Lewisporte will extend from the northern boundary line of Fogo to the River to New Bay, east of a line drawn due north from the River to New Bay; that is to say the Fortune Harbour part. The islands adjacent on the east (except Twillingate and New World Islands) would be included in Lewisporte. Then comes the district of Exploits mentioned above, and then the district of Green Bay, extending from New Bay to Cape John, with its adjacent islands. St. Barbe district is divided by a line drawn southwards along the centre of the Peninsula from a point west of Boat Harbour to a line drawn eastward from Cape Gregory, the northern boundary of the new district of Humber.

By a conventional arrangement, referred to previously, St.

John's West has usually returned one Protestant and two Roman Catholics (when the latter had an actual majority in the district) but in 1919 it returned two Protestants (one on each side) and one Roman Catholic. It is now proposed to create a one-man constituency out of the South Side and parts external to the City, with a Protestant majority, leaving the City part as a two man district with a Roman Catholic majority.

St. John's East had, during recent years, returned three Roman Catholic members, but it is now proposed to create the constituencies of Bell Island and St. John's East (Extern) both of which will have Roman Catholic majorities, and to make a two man district of the eastern end of the City for which the conventional arrangement should be to elect one Protestant and one Roman Catholic. This arrangement will be in accordance with the principle of fair play applied to the whole Island.

(To be continued.)



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The attention of the Public is especially drawn to the following Regulations, viz:

(1) PAY DAYS IN EACH WEEK:

- PUBLIC WORKS DEPT.**—Accounts due must be presented duly certified, at the Department before noon on Mondays and Thursdays, payment being made on the following Wednesdays and Saturdays.
- AGRICULTURE AND MINES DEPARTMENT**—Every day but Monday, on which day accounts are passed.
- MARINE & FISHERIES DEPARTMENT**—Tuesday and Friday.
- POSTAL TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT**—Tuesday and Friday.

In the event of any of these days being a holiday, payments will be made on the following day.

All bills, duly certified, payable by the above Departments (b.c.d.) should be rendered not later than the mornings of the day preceding pay day.

- All cheques, drafts and other documents, representing money, in payment of Fees or Dues of any kind whatsoever to any Government Department must be made out in the name of the Department and not in that of any individual official thereof.

- The several Public Departments and their subsidiary offices in the Outports have been directed to refuse to accept, in payment of amounts due the Government, any cheques which are not properly endorsed and stamped and which have not been certified by the Bank on which they are drawn, or the paying Bank in the case of cheques drawn outside of Newfoundland.

- In view of the lack of general compliance with the law in respect of stamping receipts as provided for by the Stamp Act (Consolidated Statutes 3rd Series, Cap.28), the attention of the Public is drawn to the following provisions thereof, viz:

"Receipts for any sum of money exceeding ten dollars (\$10.00) shall be stamped with adhesive or impressed stamp of the value of two cents.
"An instrument shall not be duly stamped unless the stamp affixed thereto is cancelled."

The Public is warned that no receipt is valid unless these provisions are complied with.

F. C. BERTEAU,

Comptroller and Auditor General.

July 10, 21

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The Memorial College will be associated with the principal universities of North America and the British Isles, and its certificate accepted pro tanto. In the case of the universities in North America, this will reduce the residence abroad to two years.

ENTRANCE EXAMINATION: Junior Associate (Matriculation) of the Council of Higher Education with a general average of fifty per cent. or equivalent examination to be set by the College shortly before the date appointed for the opening.

SPECIAL STUDENTS: Students not desiring the full course may be admitted to any class as special students provided they are able to present evidence of qualification for such class.

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FEES: For the full course of five subjects or classes \$40.00 per annum will be charged, and \$10.00 for special subjects.

The President is at present engaged in securing a suitable staff of Professors for the institution.

Mr. S. P. Whiteaway, B.Sc. (Columbia University), will continue in charge of the teacher-training or normal classes.

The President plans to reach here early in July. Until then, application for admission and for further information should be addressed to the

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

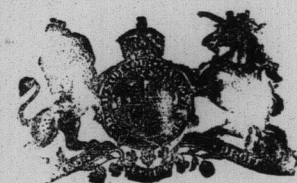
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Oct., 1923.