

Redistribution

posite will meet us in the same spirit in which we approach the matter, to refer this bill after the second reading to a committee on which there will be representatives of the three parties at present comprising this House, the committee to have power to work out the details of the redistribution. Except for the changes in wording and figures which are necessary as a consequence of the census, the bill that I am about to present is to all intents and purposes the same in form and wording as the bill which was introduced in 1914, which in itself was a copy of the bill introduced by Sir Wilfrid Laurier in 1903. Its provisions are not long, and as I have observed that on previous occasions the bill has been read in its entirety at the time of its introduction. I will venture to read its provisions. They are as follows:

An act to readjust the Representation in the House of Commons. Whereas the results of the census of 1921 necessitate a readjustment of the representation in the House of Commons, pursuant to the provisions of the British North America Act, 1867, and the other statutes in that behalf; Therefore His Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada, enacts as follows:—

1. This act may be cited as The Representation Act, 1923.

2. The House of Commons shall consist of two hundred and forty-five members, of whom eighty-two shall be elected for the province of Ontario, sixty-five for the province of Quebec, fourteen for the province of Nova Scotia, eleven for the province of New Brunswick, seventeen for the province of Manitoba, fourteen for the province of British Columbia, four for the province of Prince Edward Island, twenty-one for the province of Saskatchewan, sixteen for the province of Alberta, and one for the Yukon Territory.

3. The said provinces and territory respectively shall, for the purposes of election of members to serve in the House of Commons, be divided into electoral districts, and be represented as provided in the schedule to this act.

4. Every city, town, village, township, parish or place, or part thereof, lying within the territorial limits of any electoral district, and not specifically included in any other electoral district by the said schedule, shall be and be taken to be part of the electoral district in which it is so locally situate.

5. Wherever in the said schedule any word or expression is used to denote the name of any territorial division, such word or expression shall, unless the context otherwise requires, be construed as indicating such territorial division as it exists and is bounded at the date of the passing of this act.

6. Wherever in the said schedule a municipality or place is wrongly referred to as a city, or a town, or a village, but there is within the territorial limits of the electoral district, in the description of which the reference occurs, a municipality or place of the same name which is a city, or a town, or a village, but is not of the class,—city, town or village, as the case may be,—specified in the schedule, the reference shall be taken to be that municipality or place.

7. This act shall take effect only upon the dissolution of the present Parliament.

I have nothing further to add, Mr. Speaker, except to emphasize what I have already said,

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

that in adopting this method of working out the details of redistribution the government has in view but the one object of bringing about a measure of redistribution which will be regarded in this House and throughout the country as eminently fair and just. I believe that all parties, working together in a joint committee, having the common object of arriving at a fair and equitable basis of redistribution, should be able to send back to this House a bill which it will be possible for us to accept without controversy or discussion; a bill that will meet with the general approval of all hon. members, a bill that will help to inspire throughout the country a greater measure of confidence in our parliamentary institutions because of a realization of the accuracy and justice of the foundations on which they rest.

Motion agreed to, and bill read the first time.

ASH WEDNESDAY ADJOURNMENT

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister) moved:

That when this House adjourns on Tuesday, the 13th of February instant, it stand adjourned until Thursday, the 15th instant.

Motion agreed to.

COMBINES AND THE COAL SITUATION

On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. J. S. WOODSWORTH (Centre Winnipeg): Mr. Speaker, it was stated in the Speech from the Throne that a bill would be submitted to safeguard the interests of consumers and producers from undue enhancement of prices or unfair restriction of trade by combines, monopolies, trusts, or mergers. I have information from the city of Montreal that there is an extreme situation there at the present time with regard to coal. The coal situation is bad in all our cities, but the Montreal papers say that \$25 per ton is being charged there for coal in small lots, and that one householder was unable to obtain coal though he had offered \$35 per ton. The suffering among certain sections of the populace has been great. I should like to ask whether the measure that is being introduced will protect consumers during this present season, when protection is so much needed.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): That will depend very largely upon the length of time that it takes to get the measure through the House. The government will endeavour to expedite it, and perhaps my hon. friend will help us.