

12176(4) 8. ✓
Ottawa,
April 11th,
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Dear General;

You state C. C. F. speakers in the West are now proposing to reform instead of abolish the Senate and they have disclosed that their scheme is to reform from within by appointing, if and when they gain power, eight senators in addition to the regular number of ninety-six.

You ask me to make a search and ascertain if there is any constitutional authority for appointment of additional senators, especially for the purpose avowed.

Section 26 of the B. N. A. Act, 1867, reads as follows;

If at any time, on the recommendation of the Governor-General, the Queen thinks fit to direct that three or six members be added to the Senate, the Governor-General may, by summons to three or six qualified persons (as the case may be) representing equally the three divisions of Canada,^{ff} add to the Senate accordingly.

And Chapter 45, the British Parliament, 5-6 George V, assented to May 19th, 1915, enacted

1st, that the number of Senators provided for under section twenty-one of the B. N. A. Act, 1867, be increased to ninety-six;

2nd, that there be added a fourth division in relation to the Constitution of the Senate, consisting of the four western provinces; and

3rd, that the number of persons whom by Section twenty-six of the original Act the Governor-General of Canada may, with the consent of His Majesty, the King, add to the Senate be increased from three or six to four or eight, representing equally the four divisions of Canada.

^{ff} Ontario, Quebec, and the Maritimes, as defined elsewhere in the said Act.