

GENERAL AND PARTIAL REDISTRIBUTION OF FEDERAL CONSTITUENCIES

Year	No. of Constituencies	Ont.	Que.	N.S.	N.B.	Man.	B.C.	P.E.I.	N.W.T.		Yukon
1867	181	82	65	15	19						
*1871	185	82	65	15	19						
†1872	200	86	65	21	16	4					
†1882	211	92	65	21	16	5	6				
*1887	215	92	65	21	16	5	6	6		4	
†1892	213	92	65	20	14	7	6	5		4	
†1903	214	86	65	18	13	10	7	4		10	1
									<i>Sask.</i>	<i>Alta.</i>	
*1907	221	86	65	18	13	10	7	4	10	7	1
†1914	234	82	65	16	11	15	13	3	16	12	1
*1915	235	82	65	16	11	15	13	4	16	12	1

*Partial Redistribution.

†General Redistribution.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Did not the Prime Minister make a mistake? Has not Ontario 81 members instead of 82?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My right hon. friend is misinformed; I am quoting figures given by the Dominion Statistician.

Mr. MEIGHEN: My right hon. friend gave the unit as 80-86 and the actual representation as 82. Should it not be 81?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My right hon. friend is forgetting the sections of the British North America Act which bear particularly on the proportion of reduction in population of each province relative to the total population of the Dominion as between the census figures of 1921 and 1911.

Mr. MEIGHEN: That is right. That is the 120th section.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Yes, I shall refer to it in a moment.

Now I come to the point to which my right hon. friend referred a moment ago. Before there can be any reduction in the representation of any province the provisions of section 51, subsection 4, of the British North America Act have to be considered. Let me repeat the subsection. It is somewhat involved, but I think its meaning perhaps will become clear if I afterwards express it in different words. This is the subsection:

On any such readjustment the number of members for a province shall not be reduced unless the proportion which the number of the population of the province bore to the number of the aggregate population of Canada at the then last preceding readjustment of the number of members for the province is ascertained at the then latest census to be diminished by one twentieth part or upwards.

In other words, the proportion of the population of the province to the aggregate popu-

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

lation of the Dominion must fall below one-twentieth less than the proportion of the population of the province to the aggregate population of the Dominion at the last preceding census before a reduction in the representation of that province can result.

The application of these provisions to Ontario and Nova Scotia is shown by the following table:

The proportion which the population of each province bears to the total population of Canada:

Ontario; According to the census of	1911	.35069
	1921	.33380
Nova Scotia; According to the census of	1911	.06831
	1921	.05960

That is a decrease in proportion from 1911 to 1921 in the case of Ontario of .01689; in the case of Nova Scotia of .00871.

The ratio of decrease in population from 1911 to 1921 in proportion to 1911 in the case of Ontario was .0481, which it will be observed is a little below the one-twentieth mark, .05. Nova Scotia is .1275, which unfortunately is just above the one-twentieth proportion. In the case of Ontario the proportion is less, in the case of Nova Scotia it is greater than the one-twentieth to which the Act refers.

These figures show that under the provisions of section 51, subsection 4 of the British North America Act, no reduction should take place in the representation of Ontario, because the proportion which the number of the population of the province bore to the number of the aggregate population of Canada, based on the census of 1911 is ascertained at the census of 1921 to be diminished by less than one-twentieth part. The proportion for Nova Scotia, having diminished by more than one-twentieth part, the provisions of subsection 4 of section 51 do not apply, and the representation of that province must therefore be reduced in accordance with