

of conditions may have an effect upon representation.

Mr. FOSTER. In making his calculation of 456,000 square miles territory of Ungava to be added to Quebec, has the right hon. Prime Minister taken into consideration the Newfoundland strip? If so, how has he got at the calculation of area?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I have taken the calculations as I understand them to be made by the statistician. The strip of Newfoundland is not taken into consideration. No human being can say to-day where the boundary line is between Newfoundland and Canada. The matter is very much involved. It is now to be referred to arbitration, an agreement with the government of Newfoundland having been reached to that effect. If I remember well, it is to be left to the arbitration of the Privy Council. But I have read the memorial of the province of Newfoundland upon that and also the views presented by the province of Quebec; and their views are so much at variance that I would not presume to give an opinion. At all events, I do not know whether this includes the strip of land of the Labrador coast. I cannot say as to that.

Mr. FOSTER. Is there not a danger of complicating the matter if you give a definite territory out of Ungava to the province of Quebec and do not know the amount of territory that Newfoundland may ultimately be adjudged to own?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. That difficulty will no more arise now than a similar difficulty arose in 1881, when the boundaries of Manitoba were extended to the frontier of Ontario. This is a matter that is to be settled by judicial authority. But whether the territory continues to belong to Canada or is given to Quebec, at the present moment it does belong to Canada. We have taken the precaution to ask the province of Quebec to be a party to that arbitration, because it is interested in the boundary wherever it may ultimately be decided to be. In 1881, when the Act was passed extending the boundary of Manitoba to the frontier of Ontario, the contest was removed from Canada to Ontario and Manitoba—they were the parties who fought the issue. In the same way, if we allow this territory to go to Quebec, Quebec will become interested in the question. Then, though we retain our sovereignty, I think they should have a say and become a party to the question.

Mr. E. N. LEWIS (West Huron). In arranging all these matters, are precautions being taken to safeguard the immense forests there and, to that end, to establish forest reserves such as will be necessary

for the future of the country, following the lead of the United States where immense sums of public money are now being spent in forest reserves?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. One of the reasons why Quebec has asked for this territory is because that province is in a better position to take care of the forests than we are. They can follow trespassers and otherwise enforce regulations. This extension is advocated as one of the methods of preserving the forest, and that is one of the arguments put forward by Quebec.

Mr. LEWIS. Why not federal forest reserves?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. That is another consideration. But it is not germane to the case I have now in hand. As I have said, this preservation of the forests is one of the points made by Quebec in favour of placing this territory within its jurisdiction. I think that it is admitted that at the present time the province of Quebec and the province of Ontario are taking reasonable precautions for the protection of their forest—not as much as they should do, I believe, but they are advancing in this respect and constantly improving their methods. Returning to the point with which I was dealing, the effect of this annexation of territory upon representation, I must say that I sympathize with that view of the question; it is a view that must not be forgotten. But, for my part, I cannot see that any immediate, or even future, danger is threatened. It has never been contemplated, and cannot be seriously contemplated, that there will be any great influx of population into that territory. But, even should there be an influx of population, it will be time to consider the question and see what safeguards should be adopted in order to preserve the balance of representation. More than that, I intend, for my part, when the matter is referred to the government of Quebec to draw the attention of that government to the objections which have been advanced more than once on the floor of this House against the increase of the territory of Quebec on this ground. I have reason to believe that these objections will be given a fair hearing and full consideration.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN (Carleton). I have very little to say on this occasion. The difficult part of the question which has been presented to the House is left entirely open by the remarks of the Prime Minister this morning. I do not understand that the resolution which has been proposed is to be the basis of any Act to be passed this session; it is merely a resolution which defines the boundaries and leaves everything else absolutely open. I observe that that is the view taken of it—apparently an inspired