

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I hope not; I hope their health is not suffering. The Department of Trade and Commerce does acquire statistics in regard to foreign countries. I do not know whether they are properly tabulated or not. I am not aware that they are. It would occur to me that some men might be employed in tabulating the information which is obtained by the Department of Trade and Commerce. I do not know whether that information is as useful as it could be made. If the Department of Trade and Commerce is not doing that the census department might be doing it. This is entirely without prejudice to what is proposed further by my hon. friend from East Lambton (Mr. Armstrong), who suggests that something more extensive than that is desirable and I am inclined to agree with him.

Mr. FISHER. I do not know exactly to what extent the Department of Trade and Commerce is tabulating the information with regard to foreign commerce. I have no doubt there is some information of that kind. We have in the Statistical Department all the statistics of foreign countries and occasionally when definite questions are asked us I have asked the officers of the Statistical Department to look up and get answers to those questions for the individuals applying. But I have never thought it was wise or necessary to prepare a volume of statistics on foreign countries. That is a question well worthy of consideration and I am not disposed to be dogmatic about it at all and to say that we should not do it, but I can assure my hon. friend the leader of the opposition that this staff is busy. Perhaps he does not remember the explanation I gave on a former occasion that between the decennial censuses we are taking other censuses. For instance, in the five year period we took the census of the Northwest.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I referred to the quinquennial census.

Mr. FISHER. Yes, and at the same time we took other quinquennial censuses. We took a census of the manufacturing industries in Canada coming in between two decennial censuses so as to be able to make comparisons and give the people of the country newer information than was available in the census of five years ago.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. How often is that taken?

Mr. FISHER. We have done it once since the decennial census, and very likely will do it again before the next decennial census.

Mr. BERGERON. Is there anything done with respect to the population of Canada when any of these censuses are taken, because I see statements sometimes in the papers about the increase of population. Is

Mr. FISHER.

that based upon any information from the department?

Mr. FISHER. The statistical office has for many years made up yearly an estimate of the increased population.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. That has been omitted during the past two years?

Mr. FISHER. Yes, because, as a matter of fact, it is found to be somewhat misleading. It was based upon what was called the natural increase and it did not take account of either immigration or emigration.

Mr. BERGERON. It would be a very conservative estimate?

Mr. FISHER. It would be a rather conservative estimate, I think. But, I explained some two or three years ago, when I asked the House to authorize the establishment of a permanent census and statistical office, why I thought it was well to take statistical information between the decennial censuses and not to wait for ten years for information. We have been carrying that out. At the same time as we took the quinquennial census of Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan we took the agricultural census of that part of the country and we have taken an agricultural census of the rest of the Dominion which is nearly ready for publication.

Mr. BERGERON. Have you any employees other than the permanent ones?

Mr. FISHER. No, we do that by correspondence. We send out forms all over the country to persons whose names are on the lists we have. We base the applications for information upon the names we have in the decennial census. We took a manufacturing census. I will give an instance of the way in which the work is done; we took all the manufacturers who had made returns in the decennial census of 1901; we got information from the Manufacturers' Association and from all other sources we possibly could of new establishments and we sent a schedule to be filled out by all these establishments.

Mr. BERGERON. By themselves?

Mr. FISHER. Yes, we sent them through the post.

Mr. BERGERON. Who are the other forms sent to generally?

Mr. FISHER. The agricultural forms are sent to people with whom we are in correspondence and who seem to have the information in regard to the agricultural production of the different provinces. This is largely done through the provincial governments. We get lists of farmers from the secretary-treasurers of the municipalities. This is a pretty complete method of reaching the facts. At the same time I want to