

JOHN L. LEWIS CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. MEIGHEN:

For a copy of all correspondence, papers, writings, documents, etc., passing between the Minister of Labour and John L. Lewis since the taking of office by the present Minister of Labour.

ADJOURNMENT—BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. MACKENZIE KING moved the adjournment of the House.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: What business will be taken up to-morrow?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: To-morrow we will take up the resolutions appearing in the name of the hon. Minister of Finance under Government Notices of Motion, relating to trade treaties, and if we conclude with those motions, we will proceed with Government Orders taking up the bills that are in the name of the Minister of Agriculture, and the resolution appearing in the name of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries.

Motion agreed to and the House adjourned at 11.05 p.m.

Tuesday, February 13, 1923

The House met at three o'clock.

REPORT

Report on the Agricultural Instruction Act, 1921-22.—Hon. Mr. Motherwell.

REDISTRIBUTION BILL

READJUSTMENT OF REPRESENTATION IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 15, to readjust the representation in the House of Commons.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Explain.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a measure to effect a readjustment of the membership of the House of Commons. In doing so, I need not remind hon. members that the government is not exercising any discretionary right, but is rather performing a constitutional duty which is imposed upon it. Under our constitution, the redistribution of the membership of the House of Commons must be made after each decennial census. There have been, since confederation, several redistributions. The first was made in 1872, the next in 1882, the

[Mr. Baxter.]

next in 1892, the next in 1903, and the last redistribution was made in 1914. There have been in the interval partial redistributions for the purpose of providing for representation of territory and provinces which were not in the Dominion when confederation was originally formed. There was a partial redistribution in 1871, to give Manitoba representation, and a partial redistribution in 1887, to provide for representation of the Northwest Territories. There was a partial redistribution in 1907 to provide for representation of the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta, which were subsequently formed out of the Northwest Territories. In 1915, an amendment was passed to the British North America Act, relating more particularly to the province of Prince Edward Island. It was in the nature of a partial redistribution affecting that province, and added to the British North America Act as section 51a thereof the following provision:

Notwithstanding anything in this act, a province shall always be entitled to a number of members in the House of Commons not less than the number of senators representing such province.

By section 1, subsections (1) paragraph (ii) of the Act to amend the British North America Act, 1867, being 5-6 George V, Chapter 45, the representation of Prince Edward Island in the Senate was fixed at four members. The census prior to that partial redistribution would have affected the representation of Prince Edward Island to the extent of the loss of one member, but for this amendment to the act, which provided that no province shall have in the House a smaller representation than it has in the Senate.

Another partial redistribution was made to give the Yukon Territory representation in the House of Commons. The Yukon Territory obtained its right to representation under the act known as the Yukon Territory Representation Act, 1902, assented to on the 15th May of that year. The clause that relates to this matter reads:

The Yukon Territory, as that territory is defined and constituted by section 13, of, and the schedule to, chapter 41 of the statutes of 1901, shall be an electoral district and shall return one member to the House of Commons of Canada.

The Yukon Territory received its representation under the redistribution of 1903.

The time has now come when a general redistribution should be made under the last census. The sections of the British North America Act which have to do with numerical representation by provinces in the House of Commons, and which are pertinent to the present redistribution are as follows: