

very few names were left off. I shall be most happy to receive the assistance of the hon. member for Winnipeg and other members on the other side of the House in inducing the Government to bring down a short Bill, which I hope they will do, to remedy the grievance the hon. gentleman has spoken of.

Sir JAMES GRANT. I am very glad I have had the opportunity of listening to the observations that have fallen from the hon. member for Winnipeg (Mr. Martin) with regard to the increase in the population in British Columbia. We know that for some years past we have been led to believe in this House that population, rather than coming into Canada, was actually going out of it. Such has been the text of the hon. member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright). It must be a source of gratification to hon. members on this side of the House to find that members of the Opposition are beginning to recognize the fact that a large population is rapidly coming into the Dominion of Canada. We know that Rossland now has a population of some 3,000 inhabitants, whereas a few years ago it contained only a few dozen people. If this is not in itself and evidence of remarkable development, I do not know what can be. Only a few days ago one of the leading members of the House of Commons in England visited the section of country, and expressed to me great astonishment in observing the remarkable growth of that section of the country, and the extent and importance of the industries that were being developed, and the outlook generally for the Pacific coast. I am pleased indeed and thankful to the hon. member for Winnipeg that he has undertaken to place this question before the House and country. He is impressed, no doubt, with the necessity in view of the coming elections, that these individuals should have their names placed on the list, because no doubt they will become voters for the Conservative party which has done so much for the development of the Pacific slope.

Mr. DALY. I was going to say that as it was his duty, the hon. member for Yale (Mr. Mara) had already brought to the attention of the Government the facts that were disclosed by the hon. member for Winnipeg; and at this present time the matter is engaging the attention of the Department of Justice in order that legislation may be prepared and introduced this session to meet the exceptional case that is now presented by the development that has taken place in this particular part in British Columbia. I have no doubt that in the course of a few days the Minister of Justice will be in a position to say whether that legislation can be drawn in such a way as to meet the requirements of the case, and to relieve the people of that district from the difficulties under which they labour.

Mr. MARA.

Mr. MARTIN. I scarcely see how my hon. friend from Ottawa (Sir James Grant) is able to attribute to the National Policy the discovery of gold in the Rossland district. However, I am very glad that gold has been discovered there in such large and paying quantities, and if the financial policy of the Government can be credited with it in any way, I shall certainly have a little respect for that policy; but I must say that up to date, I have had very little respect for it. I am glad to see that the hon. member for Yale and Cariboo has had this matter in hand, and as suggested by him, I should be glad to give him any assistance I can with regard to the matter. It seems to me that if Parliament is to legislate upon the question at all, they might as well make their legislation as effective as possible. I think it would be a mistake if an Act is to be passed making a special arrangement for this constituency under the very special circumstances, that votes should be given only to those persons in Rossland and neighbourhood who were formerly residents of Yale and Cariboo; because while it is true no doubt that a very considerable number of the new inhabitants there are Americans, and would not be entitled to vote, I think there is, perhaps, a larger proportion, so I have been informed, of persons from Victoria and Vancouver and other parts of British Columbia who would lose their votes. There are objections to giving men a right to vote in polling divisions where their names do not occur, because it affords opportunities for personation, which have been found in the past to be rather unfortunate. I am informed that the Waneta list that covers this district containing this town of 3,000 inhabitants, has only 67 names upon it. That fact alone shows that there is a strong case for the Government to take action. I am also informed that applications came in to Judge Walkem from that district for perhaps 150 or 200 names, and they were too late for the judge to put them on the list, coming in after the date which he had fixed for receiving applications, and of course he was not able, under the statute, to receive them, and had to throw them out.

Mr. MARA. They were sent in not only after the date that applications should have been sent in, but after the list had been revised and sent to Ottawa.

Mr. MARTIN. I am finding no fault at all with the revising officer. I am merely pointing out the facts, probably it might be excusable on the ground that it was difficult to get the notice abroad in so large a constituency.

Mr. MARA. That is not the reason. They had the idea that the same rule prevailed as in provincial elections, and that they could send names in at any time. They thought any time previous to the elections their names could be placed on the list, and that is why they sent in the list.