

Again in 1915, an amendment to the British North America Act (5-6 Geo. V, c. 45) was passed by the Imperial Parliament, providing that "notwithstanding anything in the said 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".

Readjustments in Representation.—As set out in the above-mentioned provisions of the British North America Act, the first Dominion Parliament of 1867 consisted at its commencement of 181 members, 82 for Ontario, 65 for Quebec, 19 for Nova Scotia and 15 for New Brunswick. To this number were added, under the Manitoba Act of 1870 (33 Vict., c. 3), 4 members to represent the newly created province of Manitoba; also, according to the agreement under which British Columbia entered Confederation, ratified by Imperial Order in Council of May 16, 1871, 6 members were added to represent the new province, making a total of 191 members at the end of the first Parliament of Canada.

Arising out of the first census of the Dominion in 1871, a readjustment of representation took place in 1872 (c. 15 of 1872), increasing the representation of Ontario from 82 to 88, of Nova Scotia from 19 to 21, and of New Brunswick from 15 to 16 members, the 9 additional members bringing the total number of representatives up to 200. To these were added in 1874, as a result of the agreement under which Prince Edward Island entered Confederation (ratified by Imperial Order in Council of June 26, 1873), 6 members representing that province—bringing the membership of the House of Commons to 206.

Results of the second census, that of 1881, necessitated the passage of a new Representation Act (45 Vict., c. 3), increasing the representation of Ontario from 88 to 92 and that of Manitoba from 4 to 5, thus bringing the membership of the House of Commons to 211 members. To these were added, under the provisions of 49 Vict., c. 24, passed in 1886, 4 members for the Northwest Territories (2 for the then provisional district of Assiniboia and 1 each for the then provisional districts of Alberta and Saskatchewan), bringing the total membership to 215.

The third census, of 1891, was followed by another readjustment of representation, reducing the representation of Nova Scotia from 21 to 20, of New Brunswick from 16 to 14, of Prince Edward Island from 6 to 5, and increasing the representation of Manitoba from 5 to 7, the representation of the other provinces remaining as before. The net result was a reduction in the number of members of the House from 215 to 213.

The fourth census, of 1901, resulted in a readjustment in 1903, reducing the representation of Ontario from 92 to 86, of Nova Scotia from 20 to 18, of New Brunswick from 14 to 13, of Prince Edward Island from 5 to 4. On the other hand, the representation of Manitoba was increased from 7 to 10, of British Columbia from 6 to 7, of the Northwest Territories from 4 to 10. By Chapter 37 of the Statutes of 1902, a member was added for the Yukon Territory, so that the net effect of the changes was to keep the membership at 214 in the early years of the present century. The extremely rapid growth of the Northwest Territories, however, led to their division and the admission to Confederation in 1905 of the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan. In the Acts admitting them—the Alberta Act (4-5 Edw. VII, c. 3) and the Saskatchewan Act (4-5 Edw. VII, c. 42)—it was provided that their representation should be readjusted on the basis of the results of the Quinquennial Census of 1906. The Representation Act of 1907, implementing this pledge, increased the representation of Saskatchewan from 6 to 10 and of Alberta from 4 to 7 members, thus raising the total membership of the House of Commons to 221.