

*Redistribution of Federal Parliamentary Constituencies, 1952.*—Results of the Census of 1951 necessitated a readjustment in the representation of the House of Commons pursuant to the provisions of the British North America Acts, 1867 to 1951, and a Bill (No. 8) was introduced by the Prime Minister on Mar. 10, 1952, entitled: "The Representation Act, 1952" This Bill was withdrawn on June 25, 1952.

Between these two dates the Committee on Redistribution recommended to the House the presentation of two Bills: (1) a Bill to amend the British North America Act to provide for new rules with regard to redistribution; and (2) a new Representation Bill which would be in accordance with those rules.

The British North America Act, 1952 (Bill 331), was introduced in the House on June 10, 1952, and received Royal Assent on June 18, 1952. The Minister of Citizenship and Immigration stated on its second reading: "The opportunity to amend the B.N.A. Act and our constitution by an Act of this Parliament arose in 1949 by the passing of an address requesting the insertion in the B.N.A. Act of a clause which would permit the amendment of the constitution by an Act of this Parliament"

The new Act (1 Eliz. II, c. 15) repeals Sect. 51 of the British North America Act and substitutes therefor as follows:—

"Sect. 51.—(1) Subject as hereinafter provided, the number of members of the House of Commons shall be two hundred and sixty-three and the representation of the provinces therein shall forthwith upon the coming into force of this section and thereafter on the completion of each decennial census be readjusted by such authority, in such manner, and from such time as the Parliament of Canada from time to time provides, subject and according to the following rules:—

"1. There shall be assigned to each of the provinces a number of members computed by dividing the total population of the provinces by two hundred and sixty-one and by dividing the population of each province by the quotient so obtained, disregarding, except as hereinafter in this section provided, the remainder, if any, after the said process of division.

"2. If the total number of members assigned to all the provinces pursuant to rule one is less than two hundred and sixty-one, additional members shall be assigned to the provinces (one to a province) having remainders in the computation under rule one commencing with the province having the largest remainder and continuing with the other provinces in the order of the magnitude of their respective remainders until the total number of members assigned is two hundred and sixty-one.

"3. Notwithstanding anything in this section, if upon completion of a computation under rules one and two, the number of members to be assigned to a province is less than the number of senators representing the said province, rules one and two shall cease to apply in respect of the said province, and there shall be assigned to the said province a number of members equal to the said number of senators.

"4. In the event that rules one and two cease to apply in respect of a province then, for the purpose of computing the number of members to be assigned to the provinces in respect of which rules one and two continue to apply, the total population of the provinces shall be reduced by the number of the population of the province in respect of which rules one and two have ceased to apply and the number two hundred and sixty-one shall be reduced by the number of members assigned to such province pursuant to rule three.

"5. On any such readjustment the number of members for any province shall not be reduced by more than fifteen per cent below the representation to which such province was entitled under rules one to four of this subsection at the last preceding readjustment