

in the southern half are greater than in the northern half, its population must be greater and the southern half must be entitled to greater representation. On the same basis of calculation, the city of Montreal would be entitled to greater representation than all the rest of the province of Quebec. A similar argument he used with regard to the receipts of the land offices and the receipts from timber and other dues. Well, the amount of receipts indicate the amount of trade and the wealth of the country; and no one disputes that in this southern country, with its nine hundred miles of railway and its investment of capital for many years, there is a greater aggregation of wealth than in the northern part with only one hundred miles of railway in operation. But it does not follow that the northern part shall be disfranchised because its people have not as much money in the bank or because the customs receipts or the land office receipts are less. It is the people who vote and not their money. Winnipeg has more customs receipts and handles, I suppose, more business than all the rest of Manitoba, yet it has only one representative. It has 100,000 of a population approximately, which I presume, is twice as many as any other constituency in that province, but still it has only one representative. The statements of the hon. gentleman may possibly be correct, but they have no bearing on the question. The question is as to the number of people who are to have representation; and when my hon. friend leaves that question and gives us a lot of very interesting statistics to show how the country in the south has progressed, he does not thereby strengthen his case.

My hon. friend has suggested that because great irrigation works are going on in the vicinity of Calgary, there must be a large population there. But he knows that these irrigation works were undertaken because there was no population to speak of in that country, because it was not a country suitable for a large population. As a matter of fact, this great district, in which these irrigation works are situated, and which has something like 200 miles of railway, passed a vote at the last election of about 700 or 800 votes. Because a country has 900 miles of railway, he says it must contain a large aggregation of people, but here is a district with 200 miles of railway which only cast 700 or 800 votes. The extension of railways is not an evidence of population, and everybody knows that a great part of southern Alberta—while it is a most desirable country, a country in which men have become wealthy—is not suitable for a dense population. It is a ranching country, the population of which must largely be in the town—a prosperous, if you like, population but not a dense population. In regard to the considerations upon which the distribution before

Mr. OLIVER.

the House is made, it has been stated already that the vote cast at the last Dominion election was accepted as the basis of population. That was accepted because it was the most recent, definite, unquestioned and unquestionable statement that could be obtained. There was nothing more recent that would be absolutely authoritative. My hon. friend complains that the number of votes on the list was not considered instead of the number of votes cast. That might alter the conditions slightly, but not materially; but everybody will admit that prepared as our voters' lists are in the west, there may be some question as to the reliability of the list but there is no question as to the reliability of the votes when the ballots are in the box.

Mr. SPROULE. Suppose the voters were not there?

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. Dead men vote.

Mr. OLIVER. Not there. That is in Centre Toronto.

Some hon. MEMBERS. In South York.

Mr. OLIVER. The votes actually polled are taken as something definite, reliable, unquestioned, recent. Then we must necessarily take the areas of country affected. My hon. friend does not desire to consider area at all; but the purpose of representation is to forward the general interests, and the general interests include the development of unoccupied country. That is the great interest which we in this Dominion parliament have to serve, and that is what the provincial legislature must serve in administering the local affairs of that country. It is the undeveloped area that is our source of wealth, and the policy or principle that would exclude area from representation is certainly detrimental to the well-being of the country. We are prepared to take issue with the hon. gentleman on that point. The third consideration is the prospective development of the province. The first legislature will sit presumably for a term of four years, and where immediate development is assured on a large scale, development which must in the nature of things eventuate before the end of the legislative term, that development should certainly be taken into consideration. And so, when my hon. friend says that there should be consideration of the 900 miles of railroad existing in Southern Alberta, so we say there should be consideration of the 700 or 800 miles to be constructed in northern Alberta within the next two years—certainly within the life of the first legislature. There is under construction during the present year some 275 miles of railroad in northern Alberta, north of township 38. The results in the way of settlement from the construction of those 275 miles through a strictly agricultural country cannot be estimated in figures less than tens of thousands, and any scheme of representation that would not give