

secure the other I would have got the information but I have not it at present. I hope my hon. friend is not going to hold the Bill up because I have not secured information which relates to some other Bill.

Mr. BARKER. All this should have been done before you brought the schedule in.

Mr. OLIVER. Perhaps my hon. friend would like the trade returns from Japan in connection with this Bill as well.

Mr. BARKER. I am asking with reference to the Bill before the House. The minister and his colleague from Strathcona have prepared this schedule. If the hon. gentleman does not know the facts relating to the matter, he should not attempt to draw up the schedule.

Mr. OLIVER. The hon. gentleman seems to think he knows the pertinent facts.

Mr. BARKER. I did not draw the schedule; but the minister, when he was not a minister, when he had no responsibility as a minister, with the help of his friend and colleague, undertook to draw up the schedule. He has not attempted to deny it, although it has been charged again and again, but he admits now that he did not know the facts necessary to be known before he attempted to draw the schedule.

Mr. LAKE. Does the minister admit then that the schedules for Saskatchewan have been prepared without there being in his possession any information as to the white and half-breed voting population in the eastern part of Athabaska?

Mr. OLIVER. I believe that, as a matter of fact, the schedules for Saskatchewan have been drawn up without a knowledge of the number of whites and half-breeds in the eastern part of Athabaska. That eastern part of Athabaska is not under Indian treaty, and the fact that it is not under Indian treaty is evidence that there is not supposed by any authority to be any considerable population of white men in that district. If there was any considerable white population it would have been a necessity for the government before now to have secured a treaty from the Indians. I have every reason to believe that there is not either a large white or Indian population. At any rate, we have not the same means available for securing information in regard to the eastern as we have to the western part of the province. However, such information as is available in the census bureau will be placed at the disposal of my hon. friends as soon as we can get it.

Mr. LAKE. By the census of 1901 there were 242 whites in the western part of Athabaska and 2,395 half-breeds. I presume a portion of those figures were taken as part of the basis when the calculation

Mr. OLIVER.

was made as to the estimated population which the minister has given us of the western part of Athabaska. Could he tell us what proportion of those 242 whites were estimated to be in the western part of Athabaska and what proportion in the eastern part?

Mr. OLIVER. I have not made that inquiry of the census department.

Mr. LAKE. Then the 5,000 is a pure guess given on information supplied by some gentleman whose name has not been given to the committee.

Mr. OLIVER. I do not know what particular import the hon. member attaches to the word 'guess.' Inasmuch as there was not an official census taken to substantiate that statement, it must be considered as an estimate and not as official; but to say it is a mere guess, is rather straining, because the hon. gentleman will have to take my word for it that I secured the information from a gentleman who was probably better informed regarding it than any other white man, and who gave it to me as being reliable.

Mr. LAKE. Was that statement verified, or was it just the statement of one gentleman?

Mr. OLIVER. It was the statement of one gentleman.

Mr. LAKE. And the minister did not take this basis of 242 which appeared as the white population in 1901 into consideration?

Mr. OLIVER. I hope my hon. friend will keep within the limits. I think he said a few minutes ago that the population was some 251, and now he wants me to say why I consider it is only 251.

Mr. LAKE. I said that, according to the census of 1901, the population of whites is 242. Now, I want to know his proportion in the west and in the east.

Mr. OLIVER. I want to know what the question whether the people are whites or half-breeds has to do with the matter?

Mr. LAKE. It has to do with an argument I wish to make.

Mr. OLIVER. We will admit it for the sake of the argument.

Mr. LAKE. That the whole of the 242 whites are in the west?

Mr. OLIVER. For the sake of the argument, we will accept any figure the hon. gentleman chooses to state.

Mr. LAKE. The minister has been making this estimate. I suppose, not simply upon the information of one gentleman unnamed to this House, but whom we would like to know, although apparently we are not to be told. The minister surely had