

the constituency of Stony Plain, as it lies on the map, contains 10 organized school districts which are conducted year in and year out, and most of those school buildings are quite equal to any in any country locality in eastern or western Canada. There is no part of Manitoba or of the Northwest Territories that is more closely settled than the settled portion of this particular district of Stony Plain, and there is no part more successful in its farming operations. But my hon. friend, by the scratch of a pen, absolutely wipes it out of existence. He says that the district of Athabaska might be just as well represented by some one who lived somewhere else. Now if that argument of my hon. friend is to prevail, I suppose by the same reasoning some of the constituencies of Ontario and Quebec might be wiped out of existence because they are represented by non-residents, by gentlemen who live in Montreal and Quebec, or in Toronto. But the people of Stony Plain do not recognize that they are off the map, for they have been busy in selecting a resident candidate to represent them locally. My hon. friend mentioned some names as having some connection with this particular constituency. These gentlemen have no connection with it, and that only shows that my hon. friend is not careful in the arguments he puts before the House to support his contention.

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY. I did not state that a resident of Edmonton was nominated for Stony Plain, I said for some constituency in the north, it may be Athabaska or Peace River, for aught I know.

Mr. OLIVER. I understood him to say that Mr. Boyle had been or was going to be nominated.

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY. I said Mr. Boyle and Mr. Cross had been nominated in Edmonton to represent northern constituencies, and I thought that a third party had also been nominated—three men resident in the city of Edmonton are already nominated to represent three northern constituencies.

Mr. OLIVER. I do not know that. I do not know that any of them are nominated to represent three northern constituencies. The only constituencies I have knowledge of are those of Stony Plain and St. Albert, and in most cases I am given to understand that local men are in the field for those constituencies.

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY. Has not Mr. Boyle been nominated?

Mr. OLIVER. Not that I am aware of. However, when an hon. member has given the House such a deluge of information, it is not unfair that when I come to speak of a subject with which I am acquainted and he is not, I should state to the House that he has been somewhat astray in his conclusions; at any rate, that he has not shown that care

Mr. OLIVER.

in the presentation of his facts that was due to the House in dealing with so important a subject. I do not know that it is necessary to discuss in further detail the differences between the two ends of the district of Alberta. But my hon. friend has laid very much stress upon certain conditions which, he says, point to a large population in one part and small population in the other, and perhaps it may be right also to allude to some of these same matters. When he finds more post offices in the north than in the south he says that is no evidence of population; it is only evidence that the Postmaster General has favoured that end of the country, and he proceeds to tell us of a certain town in his own constituency where the Postmaster General granted a post office simply because a lady asked him. If anything could be easier than that, I do not know what it is. I think, having regard to the action of the Postmaster General in granting post offices in his constituency, it is not fair of him to allege that the northern country has been favoured to a greater extent than the part where he says the population is, particularly when he tells us that in this great district of Athabaska, with an area greater than that of all the rest of the province of Alberta, the Postmaster General has only seen fit to grant one post office in three years. He can have his argument that way if he likes. Either the Postmaster General is stingy with post offices or he is liberal with post offices. If he is stingy with post offices, then northern Alberta has not got more than it is entitled to in proportion to the rest of the country; and if he is liberal with post offices, then surely the south is advantaged more than the unfortunate district of Athabaska is. As a matter of fact, the question of the number of post offices has only an indirect bearing on the question. The district of Athabaska is traversed by two great rivers—the Athabaska and the Peace. I think my hon. friend said there was no travel in the country. These two rivers are navigated by lines of steamboats. There are plying on the waters of the Athabaska river within the proposed district of Athabaska four river steamers, one belonging to the Hudson Bay Company, one belonging to the firm of Cornwall & Woods, one belonging to the Roman Catholic mission and one belonging to the firm of Hislop & Nagle. On the Peace river they have three steamers, a large one and a small one belonging to the Hudson Bay Company and a small one belonging to the Roman Catholic mission. My hon. friend has undertaken to belittle the resources and people of the Peace river country. There is a purely agricultural settlement; I will go so far as to say a more purely agricultural settlement than any existing in his constituency of Calgary, situated on the lower Peace river at Fort Vermilion, in latitude 57.

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY. I may point out to the hon. minister that the returns show