

tions of that country. It is supplied by that great irrigating ditch company which will probably irrigate over half a million of acres of land. If there were any sure means of accurately ascertaining the population of that country it would be seen at once that the proposed representation is not fair to it. The case of Lethbridge is even worse. Take the town of Raymond which three years ago had not one person living in it, and which to-day has a population of over 3,000, with a sugar refinery having the most up to date plant in Canada and which is in operation for a large part of the year. Last election the town of Raymond with 3,000 population only cast 113 votes, which goes to show that the vote cast can be no basis for ascertaining the population. Lethbridge with its large mining and banking interests is one of the most prosperous towns in the west and is surrounded by a large fertile and farming district. I do not see why these great interests should be represented only by one member, when certain districts in the north not to be compared with it have the same representation. I think that Lethbridge probably has the greatest reason to complain of this proposed distribution. The majority of the people in that southern country think as I do on that question as is evidenced by expressions of opinion from boards of trade, and from the newspapers, not only the Conservative newspapers but the Liberal newspapers as well. Last evening there was a difference of opinion between the Minister of the Interior and myself with reference to the Board of Trade of Macleod. I was not very positive about it last night, because I have received so many protests from towns and villages in the southern country that I could not distinguish between them, but now I beg to read the following resolution which has been forwarded to me:

#### BOARD OF TRADE.

Macleod, Alta., June 8, 1905.

J. Herron, M.P.,  
House of Commons,  
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Sir,—I beg to bring before your attention the following resolution unanimously passed at a meeting of the Board of Trade of Macleod, held on June 6:

That this board of trade express the opinion that the central and southern Alberta are unfairly represented in the schedule of the constituencies as proposed in the Autonomy Bill and place on record its belief that the question should be referred to an independent non-political tribunal.

I have the honour to remain,  
Very truly yours,  
GARNET P. GRANT,  
Secretary Treasurer.

This all goes to show that the people in the southern country think on this question as I do. I do not think there can be any doubt as to the opinion of the people of Lethbridge. We will begin with the resolution unanimously passed by the Lethbridge

Board of Trade; and one of the gentlemen present who voted for this resolution denouncing the government for their action was a leading Liberal member of the legislative assembly, who has always worked late and early for the Liberal party, and who is at the present time nominated to represent that town in the legislative assembly. This paper says:

The letter appearing in this issue from the pen of Dr. DeVeber, M.L.A., explains itself, in fact it must be admitted that the doctor is an adept at explaining things. While we cannot agree with his interpretation of the impression he made at the board of trade meeting last week re the protest against the gerrymandering of Alberta, we cheerfully accept his explanation as to the impression he meant to convey. In any case, the essential point is that the doctor has now stated plainly that he will use his utmost endeavour to secure for the south its rightful voice in our provincial parliament.

This is an independent Liberal paper. I suppose the board of trade at Lethbridge would be about equally divided politically, and two of the most prominent Liberals voted for the resolution. The independent paper at Pincher Creek has expressed the same view. I think I have said sufficient to show that the people in the southern country, Liberals as well as Conservatives, are unanimous in the opinion that this Bill does not give them proper representation. I was surprised to hear the hon. member for Western Assiniboia (Mr. Scott) this evening put forward the argument that that northern country was going to increase in the near future much faster than the south. I do not see on what ground he can believe that, with railways extending in all directions in the country extending southward from Edmonton, the people are going to leave that country, with fifty or perhaps a hundred millions of acres of vacant land, and travel to a country several hundred miles away from railways, and which it is difficult to get into. I think the hon. gentleman's argument is preposterous on the face of it. I do not think even the Minister of the Interior, who is a great advocate of that northern country, will say that it is going to increase more rapidly than the south.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Do I understand that the Minister of Justice has some information which I asked for yesterday, and which the Prime Minister explained to-day could not then be given?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Not taking much interest in this matter, I was not here, but I understood that the question was as to the school districts in Athabaska. I believe there is some information in the Department of the Interior on that subject, but it is only with respect to those schools which received grants. That is already included in the return which has been referred to.