

They seem, during those years, to have been strangely forgetful of this consideration, and of the rights of the people in this unorganized territory. We are now awake to the fact that this handful of people Athabaska should be represented in the provincial parliament. Why during the past eight or nine years have they not been represented in either the Dominion parliament or the local legislature; and why have no murmurs ever been heard from any of these earnest and sincere gentlemen in the Northwest Territories. On a sudden the government and the members from the Northwest Territories have awakened to the extreme necessity of giving not only adequate representation but four times the adequate representation to the people of that district. It seems a remarkable circumstance, and rather gives colour to the idea that it was not after all a case of seeking a principle and applying it, but a case of applying a gerrymander to this province and endeavouring by hook or by crook to find a principle that would sustain it; and that principle has not been discovered up to the present time. I understand that the hon. member for Strathcona (Mr. Peter Talbot) made some observations, which I had not the pleasure of hearing, with regard to my proposal, indicating that it rather shocked his sense of proportion. Let me tell him that if he takes the names on the list, which I esteem to be the truest guide in this case, he will find that there are in Alberta, with Medicine Hat, which is really part of it, 1,222 names for each proposed constituency in Calgary, 1,325; in Strathcona, 1,464; and in Edmonton, 1,124. If you group them in two divisions, north and south, instead of four, you will find the average in the north 1,292. In no case is there an excess between the average and the highest or the lowest of more than 18 per cent. And yet the hon. gentleman, who is shocked at this disproportion, is perfectly infatuated with a proposal by which there shall be a difference of 300 per cent between the representation of this unorganized territory and the representation of the rest of the province. Can my hon. friend stand up under the burden of that disproportion when he is so much shocked at the others? I almost expect him to retire from the chamber when he realizes the full iniquity of his proposition. A difference of 10 or 15 per cent is dreadful, unheard of, shocking, and shows inconsistency, but a disproportion of 300 per cent is absolutely proper and right, and thoroughly consistent with a due regard to population—that, as I understand it, is the proposition of my hon. friend from Strathcona. It is about as logical and near the mark as any of the propositions which have been put forward on the other side of the House. Alberta, with Medicine Hat and Calgary, have a population of 14,687, and

Strathcona and Edmonton, 14,263; or taking them by the votes cast, Alberta with Medicine Hat and Calgary have 10,209, and Strathcona and Edmonton, 11,028. These are ridiculous and absurd disproportions in the eyes of the hon. gentleman, but a representation of two members for 5,000 people at the outside, which is probably double the actual amount, as compared with a representation of one member for 10,000 throughout the rest of the province, is perfectly proper and desirable, and shows a due regard for every sense of proportion which my hon. friend so eminently possesses.

Mr. SCOTT. The memory of the hon. leader of the opposition is, I think, singularly short. He says he has never heard any person from the Northwest Territories before this time urge the principle which we urge at the present moment in regard to this northern district. In 1903, when it became the duty of this House to redistribute the representation throughout Canada, including the Northwest, we contended for this principle with success, and I am glad to say that the members of the opposition agreed with our proposition.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Can the hon. gentleman point out one line to that effect in the debates of this House?

Mr. SCOTT. I am pointing out that the figures of the census only entitled the Northwest Territories to six seats in this House. We contended that on this principle we ought to be treated specially, and we were treated specially.

Mr. LAKE. On the principle of prospective population, we would now be entitled to get twenty members.

Mr. SCOTT. It was partly on prospective population that we based our contention with regard to the Territories in 1903, and it is the same principle we ask the House now to apply with regard to Peace River and Athabaska.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Was not the redistribution of 1903 rather upon the principle that we had full power with regard to the Northwest Territories, that we were not restricted in any way? Although the census of 1901 showed a population of only 159,000, nevertheless we knew that population had been pouring into that country faster than into any other part of Canada, and it was assumed that the population of that country was at that time about 250,000, and upon that basis it got ten members.

Mr. SCOTT. The principle upon which the House proceeded in that redistribution was the very principle for which we are contending now. The population there is increasing much faster than in any other portion of Canada. Of course, action could not have been taken if the House had not