

part of the country; and everybody who knows anything about that country and the effect upon a new country of railway construction knows that in the near future there will be an enormous increase in the population of the northern part. I venture to say that at this moment there is very much less disparity between the populations of the three northern federal constituencies and the three southern federal constituencies than there was last November. And it may be that before this parliament dissolves the lines will have to be recast, because of there being a majority of people in the north. Now, it is perfectly proper for this committee to consider how this local distribution fits in with the federal redistribution of two years ago. And, if we keep in mind this line between the north and south that I have given, it will be found that twenty-six seats are given by this Bill to the south five ridings as against twenty-two to the north five ridings, the other two going to the far north country which, up to this moment has been unorganized territory. I may not be able to make that as an absolute statement. If we split hairs we may find a slightly different result. I will take the calculation made the other evening by my hon. friend from Qu'Appelle (Mr. Lake) who stated that the three south ridings in Saskatchewan are given thirteen and one-half seats as against eleven and one-half to the three north ridings. It seems to me that if the federal division of three to three was a fair division two years ago, and is a fair division now, and likely to be fair up to the end of this parliament, it cannot be contended that there is unfairness to the south in the present proposed distribution of $11\frac{1}{2}$ to $13\frac{1}{2}$. And as a matter of fact the map has been amended taking one seat from the north and giving it to the south. We have then, according to my hon. friend's calculation, $14\frac{1}{2}$ seats given to the three federal ridings south of the dividing line as against $10\frac{1}{2}$ for the three north of that line. I might call to the attention of the committee the fact that a portion of one of the south ridings is taken away and put into the province of Alberta, the Medicine Hat constituency. Thus really the proper calculation would show $15\frac{1}{2}$ to the south three ridings as against $10\frac{1}{2}$ to the north three. So really without splitting hairs it may be stated that the south country, the old Assiniboia district, is getting 16 seats while only 9 are given to the north or Saskatchewan district. I ask any fair-minded person where he can find unfairness in this new redistribution. In 1903 certain areas were treated equally, and in this redistribution any difference that is being made is largely to the advantage of the south country. It seems to me it is impossible for any person to find any outrage in this. I do not think the leader of the opposition (Mr. R. L. Bor-

den) will be able to find, in this Saskatchewan plan at all events, those evidences of gerrymander which seemed to bother him so much in the case of Alberta. It seems to me it will be difficult for any one to find in this Saskatchewan redistribution traces of that Italian hand, of the work of that Italian gentleman of whom we have heard so often, Monseigneur Sbarretti. I say that no cry has ever been uttered in this country with less justification than the cries in regard to these plans of redistribution. I had a brief dispute with the leader of the opposition one evening with regard to the question whether or not any parliamentary body had ever considered the question of area together with the matter of population in making a redistribution. I asked my hon. friend how he explained the disparity that was permitted by this parliament when Manitoba was first given representation, in the year 1870. Manitoba was at that time given four members, when the population of the province did not entitle it to one member. A few years later the Northwest Territories were given representation in this parliament and although their population would not have entitled them to one member, parliament made provision for four members, and in like manner when British Columbia was brought in provision was made for six members when the population would not have entitled that province to one third of that number. My hon. friend took very strong grounds; he declared absolutely that area was never made a basis of representation in a redistribution and he challenged me to produce the contrary evidence. I have gone to 'Hansard' of the year 1886, and at page 1205, I find that in the case of the Northwest Territories when the late Sir John A. Macdonald brought in a Bill to grant representation to the Territories he uttered these words:

The population would scarcely allow of so many members, but, although the settlers are so few in number the country is large—

I think my hon. friend's predecessor was considering the question of area.

—the country is large and has many different interests requiring many legislative measures, and following the example set by giving representation to the province of Manitoba, many years ago—

Evidently the same rule was applied in Manitoba, area was considered.

—when it had a very slight population, we propose to give the Territories four members—

Now I wish to repeat that, in my opinion at all events, all this talk of gerrymander that has been going on for the last three or four months, since these plans were brought down, is pure and arrant nonsense. If any political advantage was to be found in these schedules does my hon. friend think the Liberal journal in Calgary would be complaining or that the Liberal candidate