

of the capital at Edmonton, I would suggest that he refer to 'Hansard.'

Mr. FOWLER. Well, from the geographical position of Edmonton, it does not strike me that the reasons for placing the capital there are so obvious as the Minister of the Interior would have us suppose. There must be some hidden reason for it which has not yet been disclosed to the committee. Is it because that happens to be the residence of the minister himself? Can he not get beyond the parochial idea? Surely the position he occupies to-day as a minister of the Crown should have broadened his ideas, and have enabled him to get away from the parish in which he resides. Any man who studies the situation must be convinced that Edmonton is not the proper place for the capital, but that the proper place is the city of Calgary, which is more nearly the centre of population in the province, the commercial metropolis of that country, and on the main line of travel, the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, not on a sidetrack as the city of Edmonton is. It seems to me that the minister is treating this committee with very scant courtesy when he shows such a lack of explanation for placing the capital in this position. I do not think he has any right to treat this committee in this cavalier way in this matter, which is very important to the people of the province of Alberta. Take the homestead entries, and take the great movement of population, which is towards the southern part of the province. The present population in the southern part of the province far outnumbers that in the northern part; and yet the hon. minister places the capital at the very extreme of the populated portion of the province instead of at Calgary, which is more nearly the middle in point of position as well as in point of population.

Mr. SCOTT. I might say that the particular evidence which the hon. gentleman calls to the attention of the committee is evidence tending to the very opposite conclusion. If any one looks at the map of the proposed province of Alberta, he will find that Edmonton, instead of being north of the centre of that province, is about 100 miles south of the centre. Where the hon. gentleman gets his information in regard to the centre of population in recent years I am at a loss to understand. The census of 1901, as we have heard in the discussion on the redistribution of that province, showed a population in the northern part of the province in excess of that in the southern part to the extent of about 5,000.

Mr. FOWLER. Where is that line of division?

Mr. SCOTT. The line of township No. 38. North of that line of townships, if my information is accurate, the census showed an

excess of about 5,000 over the population south of that line.

Mr. FOWLER. What was the vote?

Mr. SCOTT. Take the two north districts. That province was divided into four federal constituencies. In the two north districts of Edmonton and Strathcona the vote was in the neighbourhood of 11,000, as compared with about 9,000 in the districts of Calgary and Alberta. I may say further that the general impression throughout the west with regard to the trend of immigration in recent years is that it has been very largely towards the northern country. Besides, throughout the northern country there will be shortly two main lines of railways built, namely, the Canadian Northern, which is expected to reach Edmonton this fall, and the Grand Trunk Pacific, which will reach it in a short time. This leads to the inevitable conclusion that very shortly the northern part of Alberta will have a population very much in excess of the population which may be expected in the southern portion. My hon. friend spoke of something hidden behind the selection of Edmonton. Well, I am not a particular advocate of the claims of Edmonton to be the capital as against the claim of Calgary. I, fortunately, do not live in the proposed province of Alberta, but in what I believe to be a better province, that of Saskatchewan. Surely my hon. friend has never been in that part of the country at present termed the northern part of Alberta, or he would know that Edmonton is situated on a hill, and there is nothing hidden about it.

Mr. FOWLER. As far as my information goes, I understand that south of Red Deer, which is nearly midway between Calgary and Edmonton, there would be a population of some 11,000 less than in the northern part of Alberta, which shows my calculation to be absolutely correct with respect to Calgary being nearer the centre of population of the proposed province of Alberta than would be Edmonton. The argument my hon. friend brings forward with respect to railways in the future to go through Edmonton rather gives the advantage to Calgary, because Calgary is not dependent on the future for railway communication as it has a railway, the Canadian Pacific Railway, running through it now. And the maps published by the Department of the Interior show that the settlement in the southern part of the proposed province of Alberta is very much in excess of that in the northern part. They show that the country to the south is being taken up very much more rapidly than the country to the north. And that settlement will be greatly increased when the large irrigation canal is completed which is now in course of construction. That will open to settlement two or three million acres of very fertile land that only require irrigation to become capable of cultivation.