

use, let him have at least equal rights with the new comer in the north. Do not make his vote of only one-fifth the value of the vote of some of these new comers away in the northern part. I was speaking of comparing these five members which are given to five constituencies in the north with a total aggregate voting strength of 2,617, with the district of Souris with a voting strength of 3,346 and the district of South Qu'Appelle with 2,842 names on the voters' lists, each of which has only one member.

That includes the district of Indian Head, about which the Minister of the Interior made some complimentary remarks yesterday. I do not think it is any compliment to the people of Indian Head that their votes are only one-fifth of the value of the votes of the people in that northern country. Compare these five members with the number given to Moosejaw, with 2,584 voters on the list, or with the district of Cannington, another southern district with 2,455 voters on the list. Even compare it with one of the northern constituencies, that of Saskatoon, which gets one member with 2,094 votes, I think the largest vote given to any northern constituency. The two Prince Alberts, Humboldt and Greenwood, four constituencies, have a smaller aggregate vote than Saskatoon. So that there must have been some extraordinary distribution going on. With regard to the question of area, we have the district of Maple Creek, which has ten times the area of the district of Humboldt and seven times the voting population.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. Does it get seven members?

Mr. LAKE. Each gets one member.

Mr. SCOTT. That was the district the assembly fixed, was it not?

Mr. LAKE. The district of Maple Creek was formed by the legislative assembly.

Mr. SCOTT. Did my hon. friend compare it with Cardston, also formed by the assembly?

Mr. LAKE. Certainly. I find that where it has suited the present government, they have taken advantage of existing local conditions, but where it has not suited them, they have not done so. For instance it has suited them to take the constituencies in the southern part of the province of Saskatchewan as they stand, adding just one seat the city of Regina. But they have interfered with existing local conditions only in the north, where it has suited them to do so, and where they have been able to run in a considerable number of more members by doing so. Moosejaw has six times the area and fifteen times the voting population of the district of Humboldt, and each place gets one member.

Mr. LAKE.

Mr. INGRAM. Whose Italian hand is that?

Mr. OLIVER. Sbarretti's, I guess.

Mr. LAKE. It has been suggested that this scheme of representation should provide for the prospective increase of votes in the future, and I think it was stated by the Minister of the Interior that that had been done in the case of the distribution of seats by the legislative assembly in 1902. I differ with him in regard to that. I do not remember ever hearing that point raised. At any rate, the facts stand for themselves—that they took the census of the previous year, which was not a year old, and distributed the seats exactly according to that census, with only $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent variation. So that I do not think it can be stated that in actual practice at any rate they took into consideration the prospective increase of population.

Mr. LAMONT. Did the assembly not do that in the last distribution?

Mr. LAKE. No, I do not think they did.

Mr. LAMONT. Then, how do you account for 293 votes in Batoche and 1,052 in Moosejaw in the last election?

Mr. LAKE. The special circumstances which made the vote in the southern part of Alberta so small in that election have already been referred to—the carrying away of the bridges over two of the main rivers, which made it practically impossible for a large number of the voters to go to the polls.

Mr. LAMONT. There is no river in Batoche.

Mr. LAKE. I did not understand that the hon. gentleman was referring to Batoche. As far as my memory goes, the question of the prospective increase of population was not taken into consideration at all. As little interference as possible was made with existing conditions. At that time we fully believed that the Dominion government were going to create us into a province almost immediately, and Mr. Haultain was making an appeal to the country on the autonomy question. What would have been the use of complicating that question with questions of gerrymander or anything of that sort? The fact remains that there was no serious criticism of that Redistribution Bill in the House. I doubt if it took three hours to put it through.

Mr. LAMONT. Then on what principle was one seat in Prince Albert wiped out?

Mr. LAKE. Because it was found that the district of Saskatchewan had altogether too large a representation.

Mr. LAMONT. It had it for years.

Mr. LAKE. Well, that indicates that it had been at a standstill for a number of