

votes in the south while there are 5 members for 2,617 votes in the north. These are some comparisons which might well be taken into consideration in this distribution.

Mr. TAYLOR. What will the Prime Minister say to that?

Mr. LAKE. I could compare these five members which are given in the north with the district of South Qu'Appelle—

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. Is not the population in the north much more accustomed to British institutions than the population of the south?

Mr. LAKE. I am sorry I cannot agree with my hon. friend (Mr. Sam. Hughes) in that statement. As a matter of fact the original population came in chiefly along the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Of course there was a small population in the cities of Prince Albert and Battleford, but there has practically been a very small increase of population there until within the last year or two. The increase has taken place along the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway and along the southern line. These people living along the two southern lines are the men who have practically made the Northwest what it is to-day. They have stuck to farming and have made a success of farming, and yet we find that the votes of five of them are only equal to the vote of one of these men who have recently come into the north and the majority of whom know very little of our institutions and many of whom are quite illiterate.

Mr. SCOTT. I understand that some of our friends opposite have very carefully scrutinized all these lists. Can my hon. friend (Mr. Lake) inform the committee whether the Doukhobor population in that part of the country was placed on the voters' list?

Mr. LAKE. I cannot be certain on that point. I have spent a good deal of time and labour going through the voters' lists of all these constituencies counting them name by name and in many cases distributing them to each local constituency they may belong to, because of course many of the polling divisions are broken into two or three local constituencies, but I cannot give an answer to the hon. gentleman. In fact I do not know that I should be able to recognize the names of the Doukhobors so as to distinguish them from the names of Russians, Poles, Galicians and others. I do not understand the Doukhobor language.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. Your education is sadly neglected.

Mr. HAGGART. Who prepares these voters' lists?

Mr. LAKE. An enumerator who is appointed by the government.

Mr. HAGGART. By this government?

Mr. LAKE. By this government I presume. I believe in the great majority of cases these enumerators are strong party men, and I do not think we would find them discriminating against the Liberal party. In fact I know of cases in which they were canvassing for the Liberal party at the same time they were drawing up the lists.

Mr. SCOTT. If my hon. friend wished to be fair to the House, would he not admit that the larger part of the Doukhobor population, which is what my hon. friend from Victoria had in mind, when he put his question—

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. How do you know?

Mr. SCOTT. Would my hon. friend (Mr. Lake) not admit that the larger part of the Doukhobor population are not yet naturalized and are not yet on the lists. It is a very odd one amongst the Doukhobors who have yet taken out naturalization papers, made their homestead entries, and were last fall in a position to be placed on the voters' list.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. Will the hon. gentleman (Mr. Scott) tell me how he knows what I had in my mind. I referred to the Galicians, who were hawked all over the country from riding to riding by the hon. gentleman in the last election in November.

Mr. SCOTT. I am perfectly willing to accept the explanation of my hon. friend (Mr. Sam. Hughes) as to that.

Mr. LAKE. I cannot say how many of these electors have been naturalized, I know that in a return brought down the other day, forty-five of them have been apparently deprived of their homesteads and sent to locate on other lands, and I think it was stated that a great majority of these had naturalized. I know that one man was spoken of as having naturalized, but the only source of information I have as to that is to be found in these papers which were brought down the other day. At any rate it is for us to deal with existing conditions. It has been admitted by the Minister of the Interior and by the Prime Minister that the fairest basis of calculation in regard to this redistribution which is to be for an election which will take place within six months, is the basis of the voters' lists and the votes cast at the recent election. Surely that should be sufficient for the members on the other side of the House as it is sufficient for us. We are quite prepared to accept that as a basis, we consider it a fair basis and if it is adhered to we will have nothing more to say in regard to this matter. For my part at any rate, I would have nothing more to say. I do not care how these are divided up so long as there is a fair distribution of the population; they may zig-zag them in any way they please so long as they give a fair distribution of the population. Let the man who has lived in the southern part of that country and who has made that country, and who has proved that the country is of some