

distribution which is proposed by the government, Saskatchewan gets ten and Assiniboia fifteen. That is roughly speaking, but the figures are close enough to make a fair test of the right hon. gentleman's argument. Taking the right hon. Prime Minister's own figures given this afternoon in reference to the votes cast and the voters on the list in Alberta, you will find, if you will calculate them up, that he has made a margin of 10 per cent, roughly speaking, between the representation of the constituencies which lie south of the dividing line at Red Deer and those which lie north; that is to say, that it takes 10 per cent more voters in the constituencies south to elect a representative to the legislative assembly than it does in the north. I noticed that in the instructions which were given for the mapping out of the constituencies of the Transvaal by the British government the other day, it was laid down that there might be a variation of 10 per cent in the populations which were to be allotted to the different constituencies, but it was never suggested that that 10 per cent should apply to a whole group of constituencies. That is what is being done in this particular case. The constituencies grouped north are receiving, taken as a whole, an exceptional amount of consideration. But if you take the number of votes on the list you will find that the right hon. Prime Minister, according to his own figures, has favoured constituencies in the north to the extent of 22 per cent; and I wish to say, Mr. Chairman, in regard to this, that I am not taking into consideration the two extra constituencies which are to be formed in Athabaska. I am taking purely and simply the constituencies in the old district of Alberta. If you take the voters' list you will see that the northern people have been favoured to the extent of 22 per cent. The figures furnished by the right hon. Prime Minister show that on the basis of the votes cast they have been favoured to the extent of 10 per cent. I would like to know how that compares with the way that the legislative assembly managed their own distribution, in which the variation amounted to about $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent throughout the whole country. We have heard a good deal about the argument that areas should be taken into consideration in discussing this question. So I consider they should to a certain extent, but a mountain has been made out of a molehill in regard to the difficulties of carrying on an election in the district of Athabaska. The legislative assembly of the Northwest have been holding elections in the district of Kinistino. I have not a map showing the district of Kinistino as at present constituted, but taking the district of Prince Albert East, which was only a portion of the district of Kinistino, I find that that district was 180 miles wide by 270 miles long. Yet no very great difficulty was found in holding an election for a member of the legislative assembly.

MR. LAKE.

The only trouble was that the return of the election had to be delayed for a fortnight, because some of the returns could not be brought in during the same time as in other constituencies. While we are hearing so much talk in regard to the necessity for representation in Athabaska, I would like to say that I fully agree that every man in that country should have the franchise and should be entitled to cast his vote for a member to represent him, but we must not forget the fact that there is a large portion of the country which is being cut off and deprived of representation by the action of the present government. That portion of the district of Saskatchewan which lies north of Manitoba has a fair number of voters in it. I should not wonder if it has just as many voters as those who will cast their votes in either of these proposed districts in Athabaska. They have enjoyed the franchise for many years, they have been entitled to elect a member for the Northwest legislative assembly, and now they are to be thrown into unorganized territory and to be deprived of their franchise. I think that is a point which is worth bearing in mind in connection with this discussion. You have only to look at the map to see how very little consideration has been given to the question, because you will see that they bring in all these huge constituencies from the north and corner them in and around the city of Edmonton. We find also that this principle of area has been departed from in the most astonishing way in the new province of Saskatchewan. There is one constituency in the south that has more than five times the area of two of the constituencies in the north. It has five times the area and nearly double the voting strength of these constituencies in the north. That is one example to show that the area has not been the guiding principle in this redistribution. The smallest district in area is Rosthern, one of these northern constituencies, which is just one-sixteenth the size of Moosejaw in the south, and has only about one-half of the voting population.

MR. LAMONT. What is the population of Rosthern?

MR. LAKE. On the 3rd of November last there were 1,348 names on the voters' lists in Rosthern as against 2,584 names in Moosejaw. Take Prince Albert city, Humboldt, Rosthern, area .83 townships, with 2,285 names on the list and 3 members. Take Moosejaw in the south with an area of 420 townships and 2,584 names on the voters' lists with only 1 member. Take Prince Albert city and Prince Albert rural district, add to them Humboldt, Redberry and Greenwood; they have a total on the voters' lists of 2,617 and 5 members. Compare that with the district of Souris on the south which has on the voters' lists 3,346 names—more than that, because one poll was never held as the list was missing—it has 1 member for 3,346