

admitted, has been pretty well at a standstill. You may take 5,620 Indians from that number. You may also take 3,686 half-breeds who have not been immigrating into that country and whose population may also be considered to be more or less at a standstill; at any rate, there is a very small proportionate natural increase. That leaves a total number of whites in the year 1901 of 59,570 for the old district of Alberta. It is calculated that 250,000 is the population of the whole of the new province of Alberta. So, I deduct the total population of Indians and the estimated number of half-breeds which the hon. minister fancies he has found in the district of Athabaska and I find we have to deduct on this account 15,906 leaving a total white population at the present time of 234,094. It will be found from that calculation, if you simply divide that sum by 59,570, that the population has increased nearly four times or 392 per cent as compared with what it was shown to be in the 1901 census. What I am driving at is this: The census of 1901 is a most extraordinary basis to form this distribution upon when there are four white settlers now for every settler that there were four years ago. How can this committee for one instant say that this new population is divided absolutely evenly throughout the whole country, a population which is four times as great as it was four years ago? In these last four years we have been having exceptionally good seasons in the southern part of Alberta and there has been a large inrush of immigration. Perhaps in the northern part they had almost too much rain and it is possible that the rush into that portion of Alberta has not been as great as in the southern part. It seems to be rather extraordinary that hon. gentlemen opposite should take the 1901 census as a standard and assume that as the white population has increased four times the increase has been evenly distributed throughout the whole of that country. I think from the figures which have been presented to this House it may be taken for granted that the population has not gone evenly through that country, because we find this peculiar circumstance that while from the figures which the right hon. Prime Minister gave to us it is found that the population of 1901 was 17 per cent greater in the northern part of the old province of Alberta than it was in the southern part. We find that the votes registered were 23 per cent greater in the southern part than they were in the northern part. How is this discrepancy which makes a change of nearly 40 per cent to be accounted for, unless the minister wishes to argue that a greater proportion of the new comers in the north than in the south have been aliens and are not yet naturalized.

Mr. PETER TALBOT. I wish to draw the attention of the committee to some features of this amendment which has been proposed

Mr. LAKE.

by the leader of the opposition. Our friends opposite have been trying to make us believe that they are so extremely just that no unfairness would be done if their amendment were carried. Let me point out a few facts and make a few comparisons. It is proposed by this amendment that that district of Alberta should have five local seats and the district of Edmonton six local seats. The vote cast last November in the Alberta district was 3,433 which for five seats would give an average of 686 votes to each. The vote cast last November in the district of Edmonton was 5,061 which for six local seats would give 843 each. We see that each of the local constituencies in Edmonton would have 843 votes while each of the Alberta local constituencies would have 686. This discrepancy will be more striking when you compare the rural constituencies of Alberta and Strathcona. The amendment proposes that Alberta should have five local constituencies and Strathcona six. The vote in Alberta last November was 3,432 or 686 for each of the five local constituencies. The vote in Strathcona was 5,871 or 978 votes for each of the six local constituencies, and yet that is the proposition of these gentlemen opposite who tell us they are so fair and so just that they would give each constituency its fair representation. I want to say to this committee that if there is any part of Alberta that is going to be under-represented it is the constituency of Strathcona, for there is not a shadow of a doubt in the mind of anybody who knows the Northwest that it is by far the most populous district in the proposed provinces. Of that I can cite many proofs. Let us make another comparison. In the Alberta constituency there are 59 organized school districts and in Strathcona which I have the honour to represent there are 245. Each of the local constituencies in Alberta would have 12 school districts while each of the local constituencies in Strathcona would have 41.

Mr. LALOR. What is the average attendance in these school districts?

Mr. PETER TALBOT. I do not know exactly.

Mr. LALOR. It is an important part of your argument to know that.

Mr. PETER TALBOT. I know from the figures given last night by the Prime Minister that the aggregate school attendance north of Red Deer is greater than it is south of Red Deer.

Mr. LALOR. Is that merely an assertion or have you facts to base it on?

Mr. PETER TALBOT. I base it on the official figures obtained by the Prime Minister from the commissioner of education for the Northwest Territories at Regina.