

The government are satisfied with that constituency; they consider that one representative can look after it. Extend northward for 90 miles the boundary line between St. Albert and Sturgeon to a point, and from that point draw a line at right angles westward to the limit of the constituency, and you form in Athabaska another constituency exactly the same size as St. Albert. I want to demonstrate that it is possible to constitute in that southwestern corner of Athabaska a constituency exactly the same size as St. Albert, which will contain practically all the population, all the interests and all the wealth that exist in that country at the present time. I would be glad to send over to the hon. minister a map which will show him exactly what we propose. A little while ago there was a return brought down to this House stating that there was only one monthly post office service in that country, and giving all the points at which it touched. If you follow that route, you will find that it leaves Athabaska Landing, goes to the Lesser Slave lake settlement, then to Peace River Landing, Spirit river and Dunvegan, and that the entire route falls within the area I have described. Moreover, it is the only section of the country where there are any mail routes and any transportation. The Peace River valley will lie entirely within that constituency. Further than that, the line of the Grand Trunk Pacific will lie entirely within it. There is practically nothing outside of that area. Consequently, my contention is simply this, that if you create north of the old Alberta line a constituency of the same size as St. Albert, you can include therein everything worth including in the southwestern part of the present territory of Athabaska. What would be left if you did that? There would be nothing left except a few scattered people, not sufficiently numerous to be organized. The right hon. Prime Minister the other day, when I referred as a precedent to the addition of Ashnaniipi to the county of Saguenay, stated that there were no people there. According to the last census, Ashnaniipi in 1901 had 161 whites. According to the same census all Athabaska had only 243 whites, and yet we are only dealing with the half of Athabaska. The probability is that it contains no more whites than Ashnaniipi. Yet there has never been a question of organizing Ashnaniipi, and nobody has felt that there was any grievance in consequence. My contention is that you can carve out one constituency in southwestern Athabaska that will serve the whole purpose and give representation to all the interests concerned. Now, the amendment is a very simple matter. It takes the tract of land which it is proposed to constitute into the province of Alberta; it finds that it contains the Dominion districts of Alberta, Calgary, Strathcona and Edmonton, plus Medicine Hat, and a section of Athabaska. You will see by the map that the old con-

stituency of Alberta does not reach the 4th meridian; it is a trifle smaller than the others. If we add Medicine Hat, however, it is more populous than the Edmonton constituencies. On this calculation, according to the government figures, Alberta and Medicine Hat together have 6,736 names on the list, Calgary, 7,951; Strathcona, 8,786, and Edmonton, 6,744. You will find that this will practically even up the representation as between the north and the south. Again, if you take the number of votes cast, you will find that Alberta and Medicine Hat together had 4,632, Calgary, 5,577; Strathcona, 5,923 and Edmonton, 5,105. This would give one more constituency in the south than we are contending for, and it would leave one constituency in the extreme north which is ample for all the interests that are affected. This plan would fall in very readily with the well known and recognized divisions in that section of the country. Everybody has grown familiar with the boundaries of Alberta, Calgary, Strathcona and Edmonton. Moreover, the government in doing their business with the people, recognize these four places, because the Lethbridge Land Agency looks after the province of Alberta, the Medicine Hat and Calgary agency looks after the Calgary constituency, and the Red Deer agency looks after the Strathcona constituency, and the Edmonton agency looks after the constituency of Edmonton. The boundaries of the land agencies are exactly the same as the parliamentary divisions to which the people are accustomed, and they will naturally fall in line with the suggested number of representatives in each of these four divisions, and then we would have them delimited by means of an impartial commission. That is our proposition. We care not as a matter of fact who does the delimiting, but we think that a commission could do it better than any one else. The principle we are fighting for is the establishment of a just number of representatives for each of the recognized sections of the country.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I think the House is familiar with the figures and the arguments which the hon. member for Montreal (Mr. Ames) has just repeated, though I do not blame him for repeating them again. But I do not think that his figures have anything to do with the contention he has advanced to-day. The object of my hon. friend has been to show that there are more people in the 11 constituencies south of Red Deer than north of it. I do not dispute that fact, and I think I was the first to give the figures showing that according to the votes registered at the last election, there are more people in the south than in the north. But I have already stated to the House that these figures were not the only figures we had in our mind. There were other sources of information which had also to be taken into