

Now, this is a very definite statement of policy. How is that policy applied in the province of Saskatchewan? It is applied in the case of Alberta in a way that may be quite satisfactory to the hon. gentleman himself. But in Saskatchewan we find that the government propose to give one member each to the city of Regina, with 740 votes polled on November 3rd, and 933 votes on the list; Moosejaw, with 786 votes polled and 1,000 on the list; and Prince Albert, with 542 votes polled and 740 votes on the list. Why should these three cities be given separate representation, when you have such thickly populated rural constituencies in the province? Compare any of these cities with the district of Souris, which polled 2,544 votes and had more than 3,348 names on the list, the area of this constituency being upwards of 3,000 square miles. Or compare any of them with South Qu'Appelle, with 1,930 votes polled and 2,692 on the list. Or compare it with Saltcoats with a population of 11,004 according to the last census, with 1,478 votes polled, and 2,327 names on the list. If these three cities are to be given separate representation why was not the town of Medicine Hat treated in the same way? The town of Medicine Hat has a larger population, a larger number of votes on the list and a larger number of votes polled than has the city of Prince Albert. If Prince Albert is to be given one member, why should not the town of Medicine Hat also be given one member? But we find that it has not suited the Minister of the Interior or the government to carry out in its entirety the principle so definitely laid down in the case of Alberta. It seems to me that in every single particular, they have departed from their principles in distributing the seats for the province of Saskatchewan. It will be within the memory of the House that, a few days back, the leader of the opposition (Mr. R. L. Borden) stated that in view of the fact that the Prime Minister had stated that it had been his desire on one occasion to have the distribution of seats submitted to a conference to the Northwest members on both sides of the House, he (Mr. R. L. Borden) was perfectly willing and anxious to have a conference in regard to the distribution of the seats in the province of Saskatchewan, if it was not too late. This suggestion was acted upon by the Prime Minister. The committee met and discussed the situation generally, I was one of the members of that committee, but, of course, I do not speak officially for the committee in any way. In the discussion it was found that the hon. member for Saskatchewan (Mr. Lamont) took an uncompromising position. He took the position that upon no consideration would he agree to fewer than nine members being given to what I have described as the northern part of the province.

Mr. LAKE.

Mr. LAMONT. Was not the position taken by the hon. member for Qu'Appelle (Mr. Lake) just as uncompromising, that he would not give nine members to that district?

Mr. LAKE. I will come to that presently. But the position that I have described was taken. The suggestion was then made by myself that although the northern portion was not even entitled to as many as seven members, I was prepared to give way to this extent—I would compromise on eight members for the north. I said: If you will come down one member I will compromise, I will take what I consider something a little better than you propose to give and I will compromise on eight.

Mr. LAMONT. The hon. gentleman is aware that I stated the government had already come down from ten to nine according to the government's first proposition.

Mr. LAKE. The government had come down apparently because they found their position too untenable even for their following on that side of the House. They had come down of their own accord. Then this conference was to take place and surely if the conference had been arranged there should have been some give and take on both sides. The member for Saskatchewan, however, took that position and I was not backed up by the other gentleman who was present at that time, at least not to the extent of voting down the member for Saskatchewan, and consequently it resulted in a deadlock. As to the distribution of representation between the northern seats and the southern seats I made the offer to compromise although from the figures I have shown, the northern portion was not entitled to seven seats, still I was prepared to say: We will settle this matter without further dispute, let us say eight.

Mr. LAMONT. Which of the northern seats would the hon. member cut out?

Mr. LAKE. Of course there would have to be a general rearrangement of the northern seats made after mutual discussion of the counties. This, as I say, limited the discussion just to the limits of the constituencies in the north and the limits of the constituencies in the south. I took the position at that time, and I took it strongly, that cities of such comparatively small population should not be given separate representation, that they should be thrown in with the rural constituencies. I took the position that a member for a city in the legislative assembly of Saskatchewan will have very little to do, that, as is well known, the members for rural constituencies have a very large amount to do in connection with the representation of their districts; they are constantly applied to in regard to public works and many other matters of local interest. I took the ground that the city members would have little to