

the northern part of the province has nothing to do with its representation to-day. This legislation is for to-day only. An election has to be held within six months of the passing of this Bill, and I have yet to learn that it is customary or wise for any government or parliament, in dividing a province up into constituencies at a given time, to give any part of it special representation, because of what the future is going to be. When this country was divided up into Dominion constituencies, the province of Quebec was given 65 members, and the province of Ontario the number it was entitled to by population, but there was no argument made that there is going to be a great state developed next to Hudson bay some day and we should carve out a constituency up there and give them a member because they may need one in ten or twenty years. The needs of to-day are the only proper and fair basis to go upon in dividing up Alberta for a purely local election which must take place during the current year. I further submit that the hon. minister has made out no case to show that the north has increased any faster in the last year or two than the south. We have the good fortune of knowing that they have both increased, but last year the homestead entries at Lethbridge and Calgary south of this mysterious township 38 were 4,554 while the homestead entries last year north—that is at Red Deer and Edmonton—were 4,057. In other words last year there were 497 less homestead entries north of this line than there were south. Further than that my hon. friend from Calgary (Mr. M. S. McCarthy) yesterday gave some figures taken from a map which had been prepared from government sources showing the thickly settled townships and the sparsely settled townships, which figures go to show that there has been no proportionately greater increase in the north than in the south because there were 325 thickly settled townships south of this mysterious line and 247 north; that is to say 44 per cent north and 56 per cent south. The sparsely settled townships are even more in favour of the south. I find from my hon. friend's figures that there are 64½ per cent of the sparsely settled townships south and 35½ per cent north. I merely quote these figures to show that the northern part of this province has certainly not increased more in proportion during the last year or two than the south has. In regard to the future increase the hon. minister dilated yesterday in glowing terms.

Let us grant that the north is going to increase; we hope so and we think so. But is the south not going to increase? What reason is there to say that the south is going to stand still? Are the people of the south less progressive than the people of the north; are they less business like and less industrious? It seems to me that the statement is beyond refutation, when I say that the present condition of

affairs in that new province must be the true consideration in this purely local and temporary matter. It is unfair to import into the consideration of the question guesses as to the future.

How many people are there in the part of Athabaska that will be included in the province of Alberta? Yesterday the Prime Minister stated that there were 1,724 people, according to the census of 1901 in the Peace River new constituency, and 1,676 in Athabaska according to the same census, a total of 3,400. I asked the right hon. gentleman if this included the Indians and he said he did not think it did, but I am sure the right hon. gentleman was mistaken in that. The Indians must be included in those figures and for this reason. According to the census of 1901, the population of the whole of Athabaska was 6,615, including whites, Indians and half-breeds. Out of this number there were 3,716 Indians or 58·5 per cent of the whole, and these Indians would have no vote. There were 2,395 half-breeds or 37·7 per cent of the whole, and there were 242 white men, being 3·8 per cent of the total population. In addition to these there were 262 given as unspecified as to race. I have applied the same basis of percentage to these 262 unspecified, and the result would give 253 whites altogether, or 2,746 half-breeds and white men together in the whole of Athabaska in 1901. Therefore when the Prime Minister said he thought there were 3,400 people in this half of Athabaska, not counting the Indians, he made a mistake. I have made inquiries from people who know something about it, and I am told there are no more white men in Athabaska to-day than there were in 1901; in fact I am told there are probably less, because expeditions started out for the Yukon by way of Edmonton which were unable to get there, and a good many of these men remained in Athabaska for a time. The 2,746 half-breeds and white men in Athabaska divided by five, would give 549 voters in the whole of Athabaska. How many voters there are in this half of the territory which goes to Alberta nobody knows; the government do not seem to know. However, if we take one-half of the whole vote in Athabaska, it will give us 275 voters in this part. For the sake of argument I will say that there are 300 voters in the part of Athabaska that will belong to Alberta. I submit, that considering there are only 2,746 half-breeds and whites in the whole of Athabaska altogether, an allowance of 300 voters for the western half is quite liberal. The Prime Minister's figures of 3,400 as the population must have included Indians, and taking the same percentages as above. I have figured out that there are 1,411 out of that total of 3,400 who would be