

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. INGRAM. Could the right hon. gentleman not ascertain the number of pupils attending these schools.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Which schools?

Mr. INGRAM. The schools the hon. gentleman (Mr. Peter Talbot) has referred to.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I was not asked to get that information. I was asked to get the school attendance north and south of Red Deer and I got it and gave the official figures.

Mr. INGRAM. Are these the schools the hon. gentleman (Mr. Peter Talbot) referred to?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. The figures given by my hon. friend (Mr. Peter Talbot) are part of the figures I gave yesterday.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. INGRAM. It is all very well to say 'hear, hear,' but will any gentleman opposite from the Prime Minister down pretend to say that the figures as to the pupils attending schools in Alberta have been submitted to this House?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Yes.

Mr. INGRAM. North and south?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Yes.

Mr. INGRAM. I would like to see them; let us have them again.

Mr. BARKER. Will the hon. gentleman (Mr. Peter Talbot) wait a moment until we get these figures.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Look at 'Hansard' and you will see them.

Mr. PETER TALBOT. Let me draw the attention of the committee to some other facts. All of us from the west know that the southern part of Alberta is chiefly a ranching country and is thinly settled. The records of the Department of the Interior show that north of township 38 there are 51 ranching leases and south of township 38 there are 408 ranching leases, many of them covering very large areas—a ranch is a lease of land from the government to stock raisers. The area under lease north of township 38 is 11,520 acres; the area under lease south of township 38 is 1,550,720. North of township 38 applications for leases are in for 54,400 acres; south of township 38 applications are in for 5,514,560 acres, and the men who make applications for these leases base their claims upon the fact that this land is not agricultural land and is fit for nothing but pasture. Now, if this amendment were carried we would have south of Red Deer 14 constituencies and north of Red Deer 11 constituencies. We would have practically the distribution that was made by the territorial government in

1902. I maintain that that distribution was an unfair distribution, and I can prove it by the vote that was taken in these constituencies a month after the distribution was made. An evening or two ago I gave certain figures purporting to bear on that, but unfortunately there were some mistakes in these figures; fortunately for myself the mistakes were made on both sides of the account, and I would like to correct the figures now and give them as I have taken them from the records of the territorial government.

In 1902 the territorial government divided Alberta into fifteen constituencies. Nine of these were south of Red Deer and six north. Those south of Red Deer, with the vote that was given at the election immediately following, were as follows: Banff, 364; East Calgary, 784; West Calgary, 621; Cardston, 285; High River, 358; Innisfail, 433; Macleod, 676; Lethbridge, 489; Medicine Hat, 691; making a total vote for the nine constituencies of the south 4,701, or an average of 522. The six constituencies north of Red Deer were as follows: Edmonton, 1,105; St. Albert, 570; Victoria, 641; Strathcona, 645; Lacombe, 871; Wetaskiwin, no vote; the member being elected by acclamation; a total vote of 3,832, or an average of 766. If hon. gentlemen opposite will say that was a fair and just distribution, I maintain that it was not. I am aware that there was no motion of censure made in the legislative assembly of Regina in regard to that distribution, because that would result in no good, but the people in the north, of whom I was one, were certainly dissatisfied. Now, under the schedule which we have prepared, which I think I can prove to be eminently fair to all parties, the following would be the result. South of Red Deer there would be a rural vote of 8,380, and north of Red Deer, 8,220, an average for the 10 constituencies south of Red Deer of 838, and an average for the 10 constituencies north of Red Deer of 822, and the Red Deer constituency with 843. I maintain that the old part of Alberta is divided by the schedule as fairly as it can possibly be done. The only portion in regard to which any one could have reason to find fault is the added portion of the district of Athabaska. Now, I did not consent that Athabaska should be divided into two constituencies without giving the matter grave thought. I considered the immense area of that district. The proposed constituency of Athabaska will be nearly 150 miles one way and 300 miles the other way. During the past few years it has attracted an immense number of people. They may not stay there all the time, but they go and trade and make money there. Many of the wealthiest men in the northern part of Alberta have made their fortunes in that very portion of the country, and we all know that in the southwestern portion of Athabaska, in the valley of Peace River, there is a fertile country. I have