

Mr. SCOTT. As nearly as I can recollect, it was about a week prior to the 21st February.

Mr. HERRON. Were not these schedules made out by the government and submitted to that meeting?

Mr. SCOTT. No; if my hon. friend had been listening to this discussion, he would have known that the boundary lines between the provinces had not been drawn nor had the number of constituencies been settled which each province should have. The First Minister asked Mr. Haultain if he had any suggestion to make with regard to these three points and if he would furnish them to the government: First, with regard to the dividing lines; second, with regard to the number of seats in each legislature; and thirdly, the schedules in each province. Mr. Haultain called his conference, and it was held, but he failed to propose any plan to the First Minister. What then was the government to do? Mr. Haultain had failed, and the First Minister had to take some other method to procure a decision with respect to these several matters.

Mr. LAKE. After listening to all the details of this meeting which we have heard so much about to-day, it appears that this is what took place. A conference was certainly called by Mr. Haultain, but apparently, after a great deal of talk, no decision was come to. Then after all the Conservatives had withdrawn—at any rate Mr. Haultain was not present and the other Conservatives who had been at that meeting were not present—the hon. member for Western Assiniboia (Mr. Scott) moved this formal motion? By whom was that rejected? Evidently by the Liberal members from the Territories in that meeting. That conference was held in room 48, the room of the Liberal members from the Territories, and quite naturally, after a long conference, the men who did not belong to that room went out one by one. After that, the hon. member for Western Assiniboia (Mr. Scott) moved a resolution in accordance with the wishes of his chief, that there should be a conference held by the members of the Territories. That formal motion was rejected and rejected by his own friends. He did not even get a seconder.

Mr. SCOTT. It is perfectly evident from the confessions, not only the hon. member for Qu'Appelle (Mr. Lake) but of Calgary (Mr. McCarthy) and Alberta (Mr. Herron) that Mr. Haultain took no pains to get them into a conference and obtain their opinion, and consequently he is responsible if the duty fell on the representatives from this side of giving advice to the government with regard to the preparation of these plans.

Mr. COCKSHUTT. The hon. gentleman has taken a good deal of time to answer

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the question I put to him, but he has not touched the main part of it, and that is: Who did this carving up? Who chalked out these ridings? We have heard that a conference was held, but, to quote a great biblical authority, 'the voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hand is the hand of Esau.' This map has been carved out in a most wonderful way to suit the views of these hon. gentlemen who support the hon. minister from Edmonton. That hon. gentleman has failed to do justice to the population, because the list he has furnished shows that there are as many as three in one constituency to one in another. Surely if cities are to be considered great centres, such cities as Calgary and Edmonton, with 5,000 of a population each, cannot be called great urban centres. It is nonsense to talk of a hive being created in a district which does not contain 5,000 people. To say that those people are not as well educated or intelligent and should not have as much to say in the conduct of public affairs as those in the surrounding county is absurd. Even admitting that Montreal and Toronto should not be represented according to their population—and I am not saying that they are not entitled to more liberal representation—such small cities as Edmonton and Calgary cannot be considered great centres of population. The hon. member for Western Assiniboia (Mr. Scott) has said that these half-breeds are the best entitled to vote of any people in the district. They are, he says, natives. Let me tell him that they are only half-breeds and that the natives of the country are the Indians; and who deprived the Indians of the franchise so far as they had it? It was not this side of the House. We gave the Indians the franchise the hon. gentleman says the natives should have. The native then is the Indian and the half-breed is only a half native, according to that reasoning, and therefore you are giving to the half what you refuse to the whole. And in that respect the hon. gentleman is certainly putting himself in the hole. I see by this division that the district of Calgary had upwards of 2,000 voters at the last election who voted. There are 2,682 on the list and 2,052 voted, whereas in some of the districts named there are much less. In Stony Plain there are only 584, or a difference of nearly 375 per cent. You have four in Calgary to one in Stony Plain. Surely the hon. minister will not pretend that an inhabitant of Stony Plain is worth four times one in Calgary. I am not as conversant with the country as the hon. gentleman; but so far as I have been able to learn from various inquiries and from having done business in that country for many years, I believe that the residents about Calgary are just as intelligent as any in the western provinces, and I cannot see by what system of reasoning the hon. gentleman can claim that justice is done by this schedule when he gives one