

Mr. LAKE. No one pretends they are absolutely accurate, but I object to having the number of votes polled taken as the basis, because it is impossible even to get near the number of persons qualified to vote even in that way.

Mr. SCOTT. If my hon. friend will compare the number of votes polled with the number given on the lists, which he contends are absolutely accurate, he will find that the number of votes polled are given with approximate accuracy, which is my contention.

Mr. LAKE. The number of votes polled as compared with the number on the lists vary considerably in the different constituencies. In one of the northern constituencies only 49 per cent of the voters on the lists voted, whereas in one of the southern constituencies, that of the hon. gentleman's himself, there were 76 per cent votes polled of the voters registered. If the government would only take one basis and stick to it, that would give some chance to members on this side to offer alternative suggestions, which could not fail to be an improvement on their schedules. I do not propose to follow this matter very much further. I do not think that the argument made by the hon. members for Western Assiniboia and Saskatchewan have added anything to the information of members of this committee. I think they have not proved the case they started out to prove in any particular. They depend on vague calculations as to prospective populations and so on. In reference to the accusation made against me that I wish to deprive the newcomers of their right to representation, that is absolutely incorrect. Incoming American citizens were especially mentioned in this connection by the hon. member for Saskatchewan (Mr. Lamont). These American citizens have not settled in one corner of the country, but have spread everywhere. They have come in very largely into my own neighbourhood. Within a very few miles of me there are a considerable number of American citizens who were not entitled to vote at the last election. A great many of these American citizens, men of means, have determined to settle in the districts which have proved their capacity for growing grain. They have not struck into the remote districts where it is not finally established that wheat can be profitably grown. A very large proportion of the best class of these newcomers have settled in the older districts, where they know they can make a success of farming. I propose that all should be treated alike, both those who go into the north and those who go into the south—all should be given their fair share of representation.

Mr. SCOTT. I daresay we are to take it for granted that the division between the north and the south is going to be maintained by the committee—nine to the north

Mr. SCOTT.

and sixteen to the south. But I am going to appeal to the hon. member for Qu'Appelle (Mr. Lake) that we should join hands on the suggestion I have offered, which, to a great extent, would remove the disparities and discrepancies in Assiniboia which exist in the plan presented by the government, that being the redistribution made by the assembly three years ago. My hon. friend, like myself, knows very well that the people on the Soo line contend, with a great deal of justice, that a different distribution ought to be made of Assiniboia to serve their purposes. They feel themselves at the extremes in South Regina and South Qu'Appelle. They feel that the weight is against them, and they have sent down a great many strong representations asking that different lines be run to create a district, the centre of which would be one of the towns on the Pasqua branch or the Soo line. I have made a proposition that I think is fair. These four districts on the main Canadian Pacific Railway line at the east of the province are comparatively small in area and in vote, and are exceedingly small in increase of population, if we take the homestead entries as being any proper guide in that respect. I feel somewhat strongly in regard to this, and I am satisfied that the committee would be willing to agree to my suggestion if the hon. member for Qu'Appelle (Mr. Lake) would accept it.

Mr. LAKE. I am quite prepared to agree with the hon. member for Western Assiniboia (Mr. Scott) in so far as he asserts that there should be a constituency given along the Soo line, taking in a portion of the districts of South Regina, South Qu'Appelle, Souris, and possibly Cannington. But I cannot agree with him as to where he is to take off one constituency in order to place a new constituency in that district. He proposes, as I have said, to go into the old districts of Moosomin, Whitewood, Grenfell and Wolseley and cut off one member from there. I have shown that already they have a very large vote in those four districts.

Mr. SCOTT. They are under the average of the sixteen Assiniboia districts.

Mr. LAKE. But they are over the average for the whole province of Saskatchewan. The only difference between my hon. friend (Mr. Scott) and myself is that I suggest that he should get this extra seat from the three constituencies which now group around Regina—Lumsden, Regina and South Regina—and that he should redistribute these seats. The average for these seats is 1,344 as against an average in the constituencies he proposes to cut up of 1,554. I contend that it would be very much easier and a much more suitable and fairer distribution to do as I suggested—to make the new Soo district out of a portion of the present district of South Regina, adding to it a por-