

2,000 or 3,000 population has its post office. If you choose to take simply the number of post offices the one that serves a couple of thousand people counts just as much as the one which serves five or ten people. It is quite impossible to get at the population served by the post office, but the revenue is a thing you can get at.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. These are only approximate sources of information. We have given to the House the direct information we have in the census, we have the absolute number of votes registered and we have the absolute number of votes polled. All these are accurate figures which cannot be disputed. In addition we have thought it advisable to look also for other information so as to get an idea of the actual population relatively between place and place, because, in this matter of distribution, the one principle that must guide us is that no injustice shall be done to one as compared with another. Well then, we have given the population and in confirmation of that we have given the number of post offices. That goes for what it is worth. It is not absolute; it is only approximate. The objections which my hon. friend has taken would be well founded if this was all the information we had to go upon. The same thing may be said in regard to the number of school districts.

Mr. FOSTER. I am just trying to get at what the government went upon in making up their minds, because this is the only way we can judge of their conclusions. Were there any other source of information beside the population, the votes actually polled, the registered votes, the homestead entries, the post offices, the school districts and the local improvement districts?

Mr. OLIVER. There are many others in confirmation but I think my hon. friend is in error in suggesting, as my right hon. friend the Prime Minister has already said, that reliance was placed on the number of post offices or local improvement districts or upon anything except the actual number of votes polled because this is the actual basis of distribution. All the rest is in confirmation.

Mr. FOSTER. Take the north line of township 38 as the division line of the Northwest council at the present day—what representation is there from the south and what from the north?

Mr. OLIVER. Including Medicine Hat, there are 9 from the south and 6 from the north.

Mr. FOSTER. Within this territory which is made up into 23 constituencies?

Mr. OLIVER. Yes.

Mr. FOSTER. The other two constituencies were not represented before and two representatives are proposed to be given

M. FOSTER.

to that district north—one to Peace river and the other to Athabaska?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Yes.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. We have now heard what the government say are the underlying principles, and perhaps the Prime Minister will tell us if there was any political principle underlying the scheme. The right hon. gentleman referred to newspaper rumours, and I quote the following newspaper rumour from the Toronto 'Globe' of yesterday:

Gossip is busy with the names of the men who will be officially identified with the new provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta from the date of their inception.

It goes on to say who are likely to be the lieutenant governors of the new provinces and then:

It is a little more difficult to figure who will be called as premiers of the two new provinces. Mr. Rutherford, member of the Northwest assembly, is spoken of among others as premier of Alberta, while in the case of Saskatchewan the names of Mr. Bulvea, the present Commissioner of Public Works for the Territories, and Mr. Walter Scott, M.P., are frequently heard. Both these latter gentlemen would be equal in every way to the demands of the office.

Has this distribution of constituencies had any relation to the selection of the two premiers. Gossip is busy with it. Perhaps no political considerations entered into the calculation, but if they did we should have an explanation. In the old days when the constituencies were distributed, gentlemen of one political stripe sat down and carved up the country to suit themselves. Will the government tell us all the reasons that influenced them in laying out these constituencies.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. My hon. friend would not so lower the dignity of parliament as to intrude gossip as a basis of our deliberations. My hon. friend ought to be more solemn than that here. As to who shall be the premiers of the two new provinces; that is the business of the lieutenant governors and not of my hon. friend (Mr. W. F. Maclean) or of myself.

Mr. M. S. MCCARTHY. Mr. Chairman I shall propose an amendment that this matter be referred to the judges who now reside in the province of Alberta, but before discussing the merits of that amendment I desire to call the attention of the House to some of the figures which have been submitted by members of the government to-day. The information which we receive to-day, we on this side had asked for several months ago. When this Bill was introduced on the 21st of February it referred to 'the schedule,' thus showing the fixed determination of the government to divide the constituencies in this parliament. When the schedules were brought down a month ago, or two months