

legislature come from constituencies north or south of the town of Red Deer. It is the general opinion that if the 'representation by population' principle were applied, the south would win hands down, and the capital would go to Calgary. That this opinion was also shared by those supporting Edmonton's claim is proven by the fact that they have been the first who tried to get the question settled at Ottawa without reference to the people's wishes. That the government should practically grant their unjust request and pursue the unprecedented course of turning the whole matter over to the Minister of the Interior seems an unwarranted proceeding even under ordinary circumstances. But when it is remembered that the head of that department is an interested party, it assumes a decidedly 'raw' aspect. We believe the government should have left this whole matter to a judicial committee, to be dealt with impartially on its merits, when justice would have been done. We must confess a keen disappointment in Mr. Oliver, who though elevated to a very high position seems to narrow in the calibre to rise to the dignity of his national field, but keeps on boosting for the village of Edmonton.

The Lethbridge 'News,' of the 25th of May, 1905, says:

This is not a question of capitals, nor axes, nor pulls, but it is simply a question of justice. Every man who knows anything about Alberta, knows that an injustice has been done the south, and whether or not we resent it depends largely upon whether or not we are men.

That does not come from Calgary; that comes from Lethbridge. Again, the Macleod 'Gazette,' of the 11th of May, 1905, says:

That the division of Alberta constituencies is unfair cannot be denied, and is being protested against by both Liberals and Conservatives alike.

An analysis of the schedule is difficult until the full report comes in. It covers sixteen pages, and evidently it is a very elaborate scheme for the practical disfranchisement of a majority of the citizens of Alberta.

We can see no excuse for this division unless the desire is to disfranchise the south and place the seat of government in the midst of an anti-Protestant and foreign element.

Here is an article from the 'Rocky Mountain Echo,' of Pincher Creek, another district entirely apart from Calgary and from its influence:

In another column will be found the schedule of the local electoral districts for the province of Alberta that is to be submitted to the House at Ottawa and incorporated in the Autonomy Bill. Those who read it, whether Liberal or Conservative, will be surprised and indignant at the manner in which the divisions have been made, and will be disgusted at the gerrymander by which our new province is forced to begin its career, with its citizens unfairly and unequally represented.

It is indeed a disgraceful thing, disgraceful both to the men who made the divisions, and the country, and the people that allow such wrongs to be perpetrated.

Then the 'Echo' proceeds to read the Calgary 'Herald,' the Conservative paper,

Mr. AMES.

a lecture for its attitude on the school question, showing again that it is out of the mouths of the government's own friends that these strong words proceed. Here again is something from the Calgary 'Albertan,' of May 18, 1905, referring to the town of Olds:

The meeting very strongly protested against the division as at present proposed, and moved that a committee of two Liberals and two Conservatives be appointed to draw up a resolution to that effect, one copy to be sent to the Minister of the Interior and to our member at Ottawa.

So I might go on; but I think I have read enough to show the spirit in which this schedule has been received by the people of southern Alberta. I have quoted newspapers from Medicine Hat on the east to Pincher Creek on the west, distant from one another 200 miles; and from Raymond on the south to Red Deer on the north, about 150 miles apart. There is a territory 30,000 miles in extent, with a population of probably 130,000, and in that whole territory, which comprises the half of Alberta, discontent prevails to-day over the government schedule which lies on the table. I have just one more word to say. I think that I have shown that when the government put into the Bill these words, 'having due regard to the distribution of population and existing local divisions,' they put in something that was not true. There has not been due regard paid to population, and existing local divisions have been absolutely ignored. And the dangerous part of it is that the people of Alberta know and deeply feel the injustice that is being placed on the southern half of the population.

Now, I want to submit this question to this House in, as near as I can, an absolutely impartial spirit. You are about to create a new province; you are about to give to that new province a legislature which will be called upon to enact laws for the government of that province. That legislature, when it first meets, will undoubtedly have much important business which will require its immediate attention. If that legislature is elected under that schedule, do you suppose that it will be able to give to that business its closest attention? If the legislature is elected on that schedule, it will be composed of men a large majority of whom at least will be burning with resentment at the wrong done to them, and will endeavour to right that wrong. Is it wise for this House to launch the new province under such auspices as that? Is it wise to throw apples of discord into the midst of this new legislative body, and practically damn it at the commencement of its career with a quarrel which it will take years to settle? Why does the government endeavour to so juggle the cards that the north will have an advantage over the south in the selection of the capital? Why does it put a