

prepared. But if we include in the calculation the two northern constituencies, the contrast in favour of the south will be even more apparent. If we assume that each of the constituencies of Athabaska and Peace River has a voting strength of 300, or 600 in all—and that, I think, is liberal, in view of the figures that have been submitted to this House, or that were annexed to the proposed schedule when it was sent to the hon. gentleman who leads this side of the House—the figures give Peace River a population of 800 and Athabaska 1,436, totalling 2,236. Divide that by five to ascertain the number of votes, or by any other figure you choose to select, and it will give a voting population for the two constituencies of 447. So, when I am allowing 300 for each constituency, I think I am within the mark when I say that it is a fair and liberal allowance. Now, take these constituencies in the south as having each a voting population of 300 and compare them with those in the north. Take all the constituencies of the north, and include Red Deer in the south. It matters not for the calculation in which part you place the constituency of Red Deer, as it is practically at township 38, the dividing line in the calculation which I have submitted. If we take the theoretical number of 100 as entitling each constituency to a seat, the figures will be as follows with regard to the number of names appearing on the list: Medicine Hat, 135; Cardston, 72; Lethbridge, 100; Macleod, 92; Pincher Creek, 137; Gleichen, 103; Calgary city, 219; Rosebud, 97; High River, 125; Banff, 83; Innisfail, 108; Red Deer, 89; Vermillion, 87; Lacombe, 96; Ponoka, 87; Wetaskiwin, 115; Leduc, 87; Strathcona, 105; Stony Plain, 61; Edmonton city, 138; Saskatchewan, 144; Sturgeon, 89; St. Albert, 78; Peace River, 35; Athabaska, 35. That is, out of the 12 southern constituencies 7 go over the 100 mark, and 10 out of the 13 north are under that figure. I work it out on that basis as catching the eye quicker than by setting out the figures as I have done with the 11 seats north and south.

Now let us deal with these two northern constituencies as they are, and perhaps answer some of the arguments advanced by the right hon. the Prime Minister this afternoon. It would be interesting to have the area of each of these constituencies so as to be able to determine if it would be at all possible to get a vote in that vast territory; it would be interesting to know how far apart settlers are in the respective constituencies, wherever there are any. As I will point out in a few minutes, the mail service of once a month costs \$1,500 to this country for a single post office, which serves the whole of that district of two constituencies, producing a revenue of \$66 a year. Could we form any estimate of what it would cost to have an election in either of these constituencies, or would it be possible

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY.

to hold an election? There are no lines of communication. And what is it going to cost in this new province to elect these two members in each of these constituencies? I venture the statement that for each one of them an election will cost the new province ten times as much as in any of the constituencies to the south. If any one was being hurt by not having two representatives, I would not for a moment urge that they should be deprived of two representatives. But let us look at the population according to the census of 1901. It has been repeated over and over again in this House, that in the whole district of Athabaska there were only 241 white people. Now, we are not taking in the whole of Athabaska, we take in about 50 per cent; I am willing to say that it includes 70 per cent of the population. But I may point out now that for some reason or other, if I am correctly informed, representation is not given to Athabaska in the new province of Saskatchewan. That statement has been made to me, and I believe it is correct. Now if we take 70 per cent of that white population of 241 it would give us 160 people, and if we look at the census of 1901 we will find that in the whole province of Alberta there are two and a third times the number of people now, on the estimate of the Minister of Justice when he put it at 173,000, that there was when the census was taken in 1901. No man will argue in this House that there has been a greater influx of population, proportionately, into Athabaska than there has been into the other portions of Alberta. For a number of years back there has been no difficulty in getting settlement along the lines of railway construction; therefore I think we are justified in assuming that the influx into Athabaska has been no greater proportionately, than into the rest of the province of Alberta. Therefore if I multiply 160 by two and one-third it will give a population of 400. Where have the additional half-breeds, if any, come from into Athabaska? If they have gone in there from the northern part of Alberta, the northern part of Alberta would be depleted thereby. But has there been into that country the last two or three years any influx of settlement, either of white people or of half-breeds? Therefore, I say that the time is not ripe yet to give that district two representatives.

For the purpose of finding out just what population was there, as nearly as I could get at it, some days ago I placed a question on the order paper which, with the answer, will be found on page 7271 of 'Hansard':

1. When was the post office established at Lesser Slave Lake?

The one post office in the whole of Athabaska according to the Post Office Guide.