

sensation accordingly. The assumption that the distribution made in 1902 was a good distribution bears its own condemnation on its face. As to homestead entries, when the hon. gentleman (Mr. M. S. McCarthy) thinks the homestead entries are in his favour he accepts them, but if he thinks they are against him he rejects them as a basis of calculation. I have inquired in the department and I find that in the country lying north of the district of Medicine Hat and west of the 4th principal meridian—the part principally occupied by the present district of Vermilion—in which my hon. friend suggests that there is practically no population, the records of the department show 6,000 homestead entries from the 4th meridian to range 18 and from township 38 to township 70. That is the part of the country which the hon. gentleman suggests is not entitled to representation at all.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. What new constituency is that in?

Mr. OLIVER. Vermilion, the greater part of it. That constituency is on the line of the Canadian Northern Railway part of which was graded last fall, the balance of which is being graded now, the iron on which will be laid this fall and any person who understands anything about the progress of settlement in that country and knows the character of that country, every foot of it a good agricultural country, will know that in the nature of things there must have been a very large entry of homesteaders along that line of railroad.

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY. Is that all farming country?

Mr. OLIVER. All farming country, every foot of it.

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY. Because I have a report here of Mr. Jackson who sits in that House, which does not bear out that statement.

Mr. OLIVER. I am not particular about Mr. Jackson's report; I am particular about the fact that people are homesteading along the line in hundreds and thousands.

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY. Actual settlers? How do you know that?

Mr. OLIVER. By the reports of people who travel up and down the line in the course of their business and by the returns of the land office. My hon. friend will have to accept some facts bearing against his case even although they are unpleasant. I will leave it to this committee or to any member of the House if it is a possibility that a railway shall be under construction through a good agricultural country and that that country shall not receive a very large accession of population because of that construction. That is an actual fact and there is no gainsaying it. I do not

know what Mr. Jackson has reported in regard to that country but my hon. friend must know, or he would know if he had lived in the west a little longer than he has, that there are many parts of his own district and many parts of the adjoining district of Alberta which five, six or seven years ago nobody would have reported as being suited for farming, but these are lands that are to-day cultivated and producing abundant crops so that a report made some years ago in regard to any part of the country is subject to revision. It is not a question of report, however, it is a question of actual fact, the settlement upon the land.

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY. The report I refer to was in 1903, not some years ago.

Mr. OLIVER. That is some years ago. Let me draw attention to a matter which was alluded to by the Prime Minister. The district of Rosebud which is a little north of Calgary and in the hon. member's district cast a vote of 732 at the last Dominion elections, and in the census that district is credited with the population of 1,036. That district at the time the census was taken was not considered by the incoming people as suitable for agriculture, but the hon. member knows and we all know that that district to-day is the home of a very large population, and that the vote actually cast is not a fair index of the total number of people. What has occurred there has occurred in other parts of the country; because the hon. member has not seen it, because he has not been told it, it does not follow that it is not so. It is a fact that our country has been growing in all its parts and not only in this or that part. In reference to the southern part of the country I have some figures here that I think may bear upon the question. One part of the country is valuable for one reason and another part for another reason. The southern country is valuable primarily as a ranching country, and secondarily as a farming country. A ranching country, in the nature of things, is not suited to dense settlement as is a farming country; that goes without saying and I suppose my hon. friend will not contend to the contrary. Since my hon. friend has been digging into the records of the department I may also, and I notice that south of Red Deer there are under grazing lands in that country one and a half million acres of land and that there have been applied for in the department five and a half million acres of land suitable for grazing and thereby not supposedly suitable for farming.

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY. Are you granting them?

Mr. OLIVER. That is another question.

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY. That is what I would like to know.

Mr. OLIVER. I shall tell that later.