

to Calgary than to Edmonton and any of them along that line can get to Calgary with very little inconvenience. Take the member for Cardstone, or Lethbridge, or Medicine Hat or Pincher and it would take any of these men practically six days to go to Edmonton and return. None of them who go to Edmonton will be delayed in getting to Calgary save for six or eight hours of travel in the train between these two points. Let me point out a simple example which may illustrate where the people of that country consider the centre is at present. Our court en banque, sits at Regina to hear appeals for the eastern part of the country; for the west they sit at Calgary. Why? Because it is more convenient for the judges living in that country, for the litigants and for the lawyers. That is only an example of what a non-political body considers to be the accessible centre and the most convenient place to meet in that country.

Mr. TURRIFF. The fact which the hon. member points out that Calgary is at present the more central railway point certainly would not be denied by anybody who knows the conditions of the country there. But the very fact that although Edmonton has been side-tracked for all these years at the end of a branch line that there is in the country surrounding Edmonton practically the same population as there is surrounding Calgary is to my mind very good proof that Edmonton is more suitable for the capital because the capital is placed for the future not altogether for the present. It shows that the country up there is settling up rapidly when under these adverse circumstances they have practically as many people as there are around Calgary.

The hon. member for Calgary said that according to the map the surveyed townships were more numerous south of Edmonton, and that Edmonton was about on the northern limits. For years back, and especially for the past two or three years there have been demands made on the Department of the Interior by people going into that country 400 miles north of Edmonton to have lands surveyed, but it was the policy of the department not to encourage people to settle so far from railway communication. Last year survey parties were out in that country, and at the present time there are five survey parties near the Peace river subdividing the land at the demand of intending settlers. If anybody who knows that country gives an unbiased opinion, he will immediately conclude that Edmonton is much more centrally situated for the capital of the new province of Alberta than is any other town of importance within the limits of the province, and that the good lands extend as far to the North west—

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY. Did the hon. member say that Calgary was as far south

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY.

as is Regina the proposed capital of Saskatchewan?

Mr. TURRIFF. I am saying nothing at all about the province of Saskatchewan. I state that Edmonton is more centrally located than any other town in the province of Alberta, and I say that there is a stretch of as good agricultural land suitable for mixed farming and grain growing extending Northwest from Edmonton, as there is from Edmonton to the boundary line, a distance of over 300 miles. Edmonton is as centrally located as it is possible practically to locate the capital of the province of Alberta, not only geographically, but as regards the available land that will be settled in the near future. With two new transcontinental lines heading for Edmonton, one expecting to get there this fall, there is no doubt that Edmonton is much more centrally situated for the capital than is Calgary.

Mr. FOWLER. There is some disagreement between the views of the Minister of Justice and the hon. member (Mr. Turiff). The Minister of Justice told us that Edmonton was only a temporary capital.

Mr. TURRIFF. So it is.

Mr. FOWLER. But the hon. member (Mr. Turiff) says they are selecting Edmonton because of its future possibilities. It is not unusual for us to observe a wide divergence of opinion among gentlemen opposite, and so we are not so much surprised at it as otherwise we would be. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Turiff) spoke of the relative nearness of Calgary and Edmonton to the international boundary, but if he looks at the map he will see that Regina is forty miles nearer to the United States than is Calgary, and this would seem to indicate, according to the hon. gentleman's own argument, that Regina is too close to the boundary to be the capital of Saskatchewan.

Mr. LAKE. I notice that the city of Prince Albert is almost exactly the centre of the province of Saskatchewan taking it from east to west, and taking it from north to south it is very much nearer the centre than either Regina or Saskatoon. It will, therefore, be necessary for the hon. members from East Assiniboia and West Assiniboia to adopt a new line of argument when we come to select a capital for Saskatchewan, but I have no doubt they will accommodate their argument to the idea they wish to advocate.

Mr. OLIVER. We will deal with that when we come to it.

On section 20,

Mr. FITZPATRICK. I move to substitute the following section for section 20: