

on that point here and now. There is another consideration. The subsidies which the new provinces will receive have a nominal basis of calculation at any rate, upon the amount of ungranted land available for revenue purposes. It is because of the large areas of the new provinces that it is possible to give them the liberal subsidies we have accorded. Were it only the old districts of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Assiniboia, that were organized into two new provinces, they could not have claimed, and I believe they would not have obtained, that liberal treatment which it is proposed to give the new provinces. Is it to be said that we are to give the new provinces a large subsidy proportionate to their large area, and then cut off that very area from representation in the legislature? A few minutes ago my hon. friend (Mr. Foster) was almost threatening rebellion, or revenge anyway, in the Territories, because of this injustice that he said was about to be perpetrated.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. A musket on the Athabaska.

Mr. FOSTER. My hon. friend (Mr. Oliver) should modify that language a little. I did not threaten any personal revenge. I said that action of this kind was apt to breed feelings of revenge, and there may be a slight difference in meaning between these two forms of expression.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Only a shade of difference.

Mr. OLIVER. I will accept the apology of the hon. member (Mr. Foster), and I will say that he was threatening revenge and not revolution. Last night the hon. member for Montreal (Mr. Ames) was almost eloquent in informing us of how little importance this division was because it was momentary, and immediately the legislature met it could make its own redistribution. I say that this parliament has responsibility in this matter irrespective of what action the provincial legislature may take. We propose to create these provinces with these areas, the duty is laid upon us of distributing the seats, and our responsibility is to see that that area is represented properly and adequately. It is for that reason we propose to give this representation to the district of Athabaska. It is entitled to representation as a part of the province, and this parliament would be doing less than its duty if it did not provide representation for that district. Is it to be said that the district of St. Albert, or the district of Sturgeon, or the district of Saskatchewan, which border on this district of Athabaska, and which already are two or three times the area of any of the districts in the southern part of the country; is it to be said that these districts shall also have the charge of representing the district of Athabaska? Surely that suggestion would be as unfair as the suggestion made by the hon. member (Mr. M. S. McCarthy) that south of town-

Mr. OLIVER.

ship 38 there should be fifteen representatives and north of that township there should be only ten representatives.

Mr. AMES. Did I understand the hon. gentleman to say that the constituency of Sturgeon was two or three times the size of the constituency of Medicine Hat, for example?

Mr. OLIVER. I did not intend to say that; I meant to say it was two or three times the size of some of the southern constituencies, for example, Cardston, Lethbridge, Macleod, Pincher, Banff, Rosebud, and others.

Mr. AMES. Are any of these as small as the constituencies of Strathcona and Leduc?

Mr. OLIVER. They are not, and the population of Strathcona is quite as large as any of these I have mentioned. This province lies along British Columbia; the area of the northern part of British Columbia is just as isolated as the district of Peace River is to-day; the prospects of opening up Peace River are as good, or better, than the prospects of opening up the northern parts of British Columbia; the Cassiar district has been represented in the legislature of British Columbia for twenty years or more, and there is no reason why, on our side of the mountains, a country of very much greater agricultural and other value, should not be represented in the new legislature. If the province of British Columbia deems it proper to have its outlying districts represented, the new province of Alberta has just as much right to have its outlying districts represented in its legislature.

Mr. AMES. Suppose Peace River and St. Albert were united, would they have any greater area than the constituency of Cassiar, in British Columbia?

Mr. OLIVER. I cannot say.

Mr. AMES. Figure it out.

Mr. OLIVER. However that may be, I am satisfied that the representative of the district of St. Albert will have greater responsibility in representing that district than will the representative of Cardston, according to the population. There is no right or justice in suggesting that in addition to the present responsibility which he discharges—equal to that of the representative of one or two or three of the southern constituencies—he should have added the responsibility of representing a district which is as large as a European empire, and as valuable.

Mr. LAKE. Is there any necessity for running St. Albert within six miles of Edmonton?

Mr. OLIVER. It runs within nine miles of Edmonton, and I would say there is. These districts of Athabaska and Peace