

Mr. OLIVER. I am not aware.

Mr. INGRAM. Your own newspaper says so.

Section agreed to.

On schedule, section 23—electoral district of St. Albert—

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. According to the statement furnished us the area of this is 23,616 square miles.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. The population last census, 3,005; number of votes registered, 965; votes recorded, 754.

Section agreed to.

On schedule, section 24—electoral district of Peace River—

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. The area of this according to the statement given by the minister is 68,215 square miles?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. The population last census was 1,724.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Consisting of 768 whites and half-breeds and 955 Indians.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. 677 half-breeds, 92 whites, 955 Indians.

On schedule section 25—electoral division of Athabaska—

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. The area of this, according to the statement which the minister has given, is 57,767 square miles.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. The population is: half-breeds, 824; whites, 117; Indians, 735; in all, 1,676.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. What was the number of whites in the other division?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. 92.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. Why not give one seat to these two constituencies and give one more to the more populous centres in the south? Why is an effort made to give such a preponderating influence to these two northern constituencies?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. That is a question which I think we have not solved to the satisfaction of all those who listened to it during a discussion that lasted over four or five evenings.

Mr. INGRAM. How many post offices are in this electoral district?

Mr. OLIVER. One established post office and seven points for the delivery of mail.

Mr. INGRAM. When was the post office established in Athabaska?

Mr. OLIVER. Three years ago, I think.

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY. Is that Lesser Slave Lake?

Mr. OLIVER. Yes.

Mr. INGRAM.

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY. Is that in Athabaska or Peace River?

Mr. OLIVER. In Athabaska.

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY. Are there any post offices in Peace River?

Mr. OLIVER. I do not know, but mail is delivered at Peace River crossing to the mounted police, who handle it as a post office would. I think mail is also delivered at Vermilion.

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY. Is there not a post office in the constituency of Peace River?

Mr. OLIVER. I believe there is not a post office gazetted in the constituency of Peace River.

Mr. INGRAM. Is the hon. minister sure that Lesser Slave Lake is in the Athabaska district?

Mr. OLIVER. I am sure as I can be. The idea was to include the waters of Athabaska in the Athabaska division and the waters of the Peace River in the Peace River division, because the waters being a means of communication it was thought it would be the more convenient division.

Mr. INGRAM. Looking at the map supplied to us last year, I am inclined to think that the Lesser Slave Lake post office is in the Peace River district.

Mr. OLIVER. It is in what is called the Hudson Bay district of the Peace River; that is to say, the Slave Lake post office is the headquarters of that trading division, as Port Chippewyan is the headquarters of another trading division; but inasmuch as our division is for the representation of the people according to their interests and not merely according to trade, we thought it was better to divide the agricultural possibilities of the Peace River from the possibilities of the Athabaska waters, which are not considered to be agricultural, but will for some years depend upon furs, minerals and timber.

Mr. INGRAM. The western boundary line of the Peace River constituency will border on British Columbia, and to my mind the Lesser Slave Lake post office would be located in that district.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. As I understand, the population of these two ridings, some particulars of which we have now which were not before available, is as follows: for the Peace River district, according to the census of 1901, 92 whites, 677 half-breeds 955 Indians; for the Athabaska district, according to the census of 1901, 117 whites, 824 half-breeds, 735 Indians. I have already expressed my opinion of the policy which gives to each of these ridings one representative in the provincial legislature when constituencies which have admittedly 10,000 or 12,000 people are given only one repre-