

has been invested. We know that that irrigation system is attracting immigrants from the south. It will be seen that neither the voters' list nor the number of votes cast is a fair criterion by which to estimate the population of that section to-day. A large portion of the voters there are on 40-acre plots along the line of the ditch. Then take the district of Lethbridge, in the south, and compare it with Stony Plain, near Edmonton. Lethbridge is a very prosperous town—city, you may say—with a population, probably, of 5,000, and the centre of very large business interests of all kinds. From the coal mines there they have been sending out 2,000 tons of coal daily for years past. The town of Raymond is also in the Lethbridge district. Four years ago there was not a soul where that town now stands with a population of nearly 3,000. It has a sugar refinery that cost over \$400,000, and has about it a very large rural and agricultural population. To show that the number of votes cast is not a criterion of population in that country, I may say that in the town of Raymond, with a population 2,800, only 113 votes were cast in the last election. It surely is unreasonable to give to Lethbridge and Raymond, with their great agricultural population, only the same representation as is given to Stony Plain, near Edmonton, or to give this district in the south only one member when two members are given to Athabaska. Or take the district of Pincher Creek, in which I live. We have the Crow's Nest pass there, with the town of Frank and its coal mine that sold for over \$3,000,000 the other day. That mine is in operation, and has probably \$500,000 invested in plant and sends out a large quantity of coal daily. The French camp of Lile is in the pass also. It is another mine, in which probably half a million dollars is invested. The town of Coleman is also in the pass with another great mine, with a plant in which is invested \$300,000 or \$400,000. Bellevue is the name, I believe of another new town with a mine and plant in operation. Besides these there are several smaller mining villages. In addition to all this, there is the agricultural portion of Pincher Creek that will ship this year 500,000 bushels of wheat from the station where I live. There is a population of 10,000 people in the district in which I live, including the Crow's Nest Pass and Pincher Creek. I do not think it fair to say that one member should be sent from that district to the assembly to vote on equal terms with a member from the sparsely settled northern district. I do not think we could give a much better representation to that country than that given by the legislative assembly in 1902. That was immediately after the census. As has been stated here, nine members were given south of Red Deer and six north of Red Deer. And there never were any complaints

from the north, so far as I know. That would indicate that that representation was a fairly good one. Then take the redistribution of Dominion seats in 1903, south of the Red Deer there were given two seats and two north. The hon. member for Strathcona (Mr. Peter Talbot) said last night that one-fifth of his district was also south of Red Deer, so that in Dominion representation for one and four-fifths to a district in the north they have two and one-fifth in the south. I think that would be another fair way to estimate the seats in that country. Why, in this distribution, do they give thirteen seats north of Red Deer and only twelve south. I cannot see any good reason why that is done. I cannot see any good reason why Athabaska with only 250 votes should have the same representation as Calgary which has over 10,000 souls. I do not think that any hon. gentleman would say that that is a fair way to represent that large district in the new parliament. Then take the Banff district and look at the interests there, for instance, the Anthracite coal mines. In Canmore, \$250,000 are invested in coal mines and in Bank head \$800,000. These districts are growing just as rapidly as the northern country. We have been told by some members that we are providing for an increase of population and by others that we are not; but no matter which way you take it, these places are developing as rapidly as that northern country and will develop more rapidly in the future. Therefore, I have yet to see any fair reason why north of Red Deer should have thirteen seats and south of Red Deer only twelve. As regards the grain producing capabilities of the two countries, I see that in the Edmonton district spring wheat averages 16·53 bushels per acre, fall wheat 11·60, oats, 29·70 and barley 24·73. Take Calgary and I find that spring wheat averages 19·04 per acre compared with 16·03 in the Edmonton district; fall wheat 23·40 compared with 11·60; oats 37·41 compared with 29·71 per acre in Edmonton district. In the Macleod district there is still a greater difference. Fall wheat there compares 25·97 bushel with 11·60 in the north, and oats, 34·57 against 29·71 in the north. I take these figures from the geography published recently by the Department of Agriculture. They show that even from an agricultural standpoint, the southern country will rank above the north; and for that reason I do not see why it should not continue to progress in the same proportion. For many years the southern country was supposed to be nothing but a stock country, but in almost every part of it where agriculture has been tried to any extent, it has proved a success. In the district where I live, at one time we thought it would be impossible for a farmer to make a living from his farm, yet to-day we find it the most prosperous farming country pro-