

the Peace River and Athabaska River districts. If he wants to clinch an argument with that would he give inquiring minds on both sides some little inkling as to what currents rush in and out of Calgary greater than those that come in and out from the ranching country that surrounds it and from a thousand and one other different sources of trade within 200 miles of Calgary. Just a few illustrations would do.

Mr. OLIVER. Of course my hon. friend excels at asking questions—

Mr. FOSTER. I am bound to say my hon. friend does not excel at answering them.

Mr. OLIVER. This happens to be one that can be answered.

Mr. FOSTER. Well, let us have it.

Mr. OLIVER. I suppose my hon. friend will admit that the trade of the Athabaska region to Calgary is carried over the Calgary and Edmonton Railway, and I presume that the fact that the Calgary and Edmonton Railway is now, to the best of my information, running two passenger trains a day where it used to run two trains a week, is some evidence that there is some business doing outside of a distance of 200 miles from Calgary.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Does that suffice you?

Mr. FOSTER. That is a clincher.

Mr. OLIVER. That the freight traffic over the road which was also done by two trains a week, not so many years ago—

Mr. FOSTER. Go back a little further when there were no trains a week.

Mr. OLIVER. Surely; at that time there was very little trade or settlement in the Athabaska district, but my hon. friend will find that the increase in trade and traffic over the Calgary and Edmonton Railway lines, out of which trade and traffic I think the hon. gentleman himself will not deny that the greatest part of Calgary's growth has come, that a fair proportion of that comes from the trade and traffic resulting from the increased settlement and development in the Athabaska and Peace River districts. There is no other way for trade to go from Athabaska and Peace River to Calgary. There is no doubt that the trade of Calgary in that direction has increased immensely, and if my hon. friend is as fair and reasonable in putting this and that together in this case as he frequently is, he will admit that there is evidence that Calgary was benefited very greatly by the growth of the Peace River and Athabaska districts; that the growth of the Peace River and Athabaska has not been because of the growth of Calgary, but that the growth of Calgary has been because of the growth of Peace River and Athabaska.

Mr. FOSTER.

amongst other portions of the country surrounding Calgary.

Mr. FOSTER. I am glad my hon. friend has taken his own advice of a few moments ago and climbed down some. He now claims for Calgary a proportionate part of its business due to whatever trade and business has been developed in the Calgary, Peace River and Athabaska districts. I quite agree with that, but ten minutes ago he was arguing that the increase of these two districts was the greatest factor in the progress of Calgary. He said it was not the population of Calgary that increased Calgary's growth and development and richness, but it was the population and development of the Athabaska district. He said that while at one time there were two trains per week running north there are now two trains per day or more, and that proves it. Proves what? Proves that there is a proportional amount of increase of trade between Calgary and Peace River and Athabaska. It proves nothing of the kind. It proves that in a certain period of time the country between Calgary and Edmonton has developed, that where you at one time had one man purchasing commodities, sending them out and bringing them in, you have now twenty or thirty and that where you had towns with a very few people only in them you have now a series of towns. Proportionately I agree with him, but proportionally to a larger extent that the same number of people within ten miles or within fifty miles of Calgary would cause the trade of Calgary to develop and the population of Calgary to grow. What did you do there for the last ten years, for the last five years even? What population have you had in Athabaska and Peace River? A population, which to-day, Indians, half-breeds and whites, is estimated liberally by my hon. friend, not on any better information than that a friend of his who knows pretty well that country came down here and told him so, at 5,000. We will not cavil at that; we will say it is 5,000. Five years ago it was not that. There has been an increase from that time on. A large proportion of this population is Indian, another proportion is half-breeds, and another proportion is whites. I do not know the exact relationship as to the numbers of whites and half-breeds. My hon. friend does not give us that. But I take this as a fact. Then my hon. friend will admit that the amount of stuff that has been consumed in the northern portion of that country by that population within the last five years has, man for man, taken out of Calgary very much less than the same number of people within ten miles, within twenty miles, within fifty miles or even within one hundred miles of Calgary would consume. The white population is not there to make a prosperous city. They are not large consumers. No class of people in the world are less consumers in a lavish or generous way of imported goods or of