

Peace River on the same basis as the other constituencies. The population is not there.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. Hear, hear.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. There is only a small amount of population and because there is a small amount of population shall it go unrepresented? I do not think it is fair at all, any more than it would have been fair to have left the people of Yale in British Columbia unrepresented although they had only 148 voters and less than 1,000 of a population. That is the reason why, if you are going to give representation to these people, there can be no fault found with what we have done. Moreover, may I be permitted to say that if it were not for the fact of this imaginary division which has been introduced in this discussion there would not have been a single man on one side or the other of the House who would have begrudged giving these people representation.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. As far as I am personally concerned I am very much in favour of Edmonton being the capital of the province, and I have no hesitation in telling the right hon. gentleman that the House and the country will view it as an outrage to give Peace River and Athabaska this representation. Why is he giving representation to Stony Plain with a little bit of a village a few miles out west and an area that will never be settled within the life of any member of this House? We are not giving representation to swamps and plains and mountains; we are giving representation to men. Take Sturgeon, Stony Plain, St. Albert, Peace River and Athabaska and the five of them together have a less population than High River in the south.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Which five do you say?

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. Stony Plain immediately west of Edmonton; St. Albert immediately northwest; Sturgeon immediately northeast; Peace River and Athabaska; the five of them together have less population than has High River, or about the same population as Lethbridge, Rosebud and Calgary. I tell the First Minister that in these two northern ridings, the population such as it is is almost entirely nomadic. The right hon. gentleman may shake his head but that statement is true. More than half these people put down as residents in that country travel up there for trading purposes, but they are registered in Edmonton and vicinity and have their families there, as the Minister of the Interior knows. Many as the outrages are that are perpetrated in this Bill, I am satisfied the people of Canada will consider this one of the blackest of the lot. Take Stony Plain where there is a little settlement, very nice people no doubt, but it is a strange coincidence that the people in High River, Calgary, Lethbridge and Rosebud, who have been brought up under British institutions,

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with the English constitution drilled into them, the English language their language; should be hived together and that ridings should be cut and carved up to give over representation to these northern districts where a word of English is scarcely spoken, where men cannot spell the word constitution or understand what it means, and where many of them never knew what a vote was till they came here a couple of years ago. I ask the Prime Minister to look into it and if he has that spirit of fair-play he professes to, he will make a change. I would not object to three of them having representatives, and if one extra member were given to Calgary and one to High River, making three ridings out of the five, there would not be much fault to find, although I am satisfied that if the five were made into two ridings there would be more fair-play in it. So far as there being an imaginary line north and south from Red Deer I care nothing about that. What have we to do with where the capital should be, let them fix that as they like. So far as I am personally concerned I think Edmonton is central and is the proper place for the capital, but what has this House to do tinkering about these matters. Give these people in the south fair-play, let the people of Alberta fix their own capital, and that is all that is required of us in this House.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Let me show the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sam. Hughes) how far he can be led astray by his own imagination. He proposes that we should give a second member for Calgary and a second member to High River. Now, according to the census High River has a population of 2,472, Calgary has a population of 4,862, Saskatchewan has a population of 6,544 and Strathcona a population of 4,248. If we gave a second member to any of these Saskatchewan or Strathcona would better deserve it than the others. My hon. friend had better consider before he makes such a proposal.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. The First Minister is giving figures five years old; I am giving the figures of to-day.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Where did you get them?

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. From the returns of your own land inspectors throughout that country and from my own personal observation as well. I can tell the First Minister further that these northern constituencies are not divided properly. Why is Strathcona cut short of Beaver Hills Lake; why are the settlers to the west side of Beaver Hills Lake not thrown in with Strathcona where they naturally belong? However, that is a detail. I have given the latest figures obtainable and they tally fairly well with the First Minister's own figures in that respect. As to the census figures I can get them from the Minister of Agriculture, and even they are not correct. Why, down here in the county