

Again they took their position in regard to population. The Prime Minister to-day told the hon. member for St. Antoine division, Montreal (Mr. Ames), that, although his figures might be perfectly accurate, they were not according to the census of 1901, but that according to that census there was a greater population north of township 38 than there was south of it. But we know that the census of 1901 does not afford a proper basis of estimate. This is stated by the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Oliver) himself, who says, at page 8002 of 'Hansard':

For the province of Alberta the census was taken in 1901, and therefore had become an unreliable basis of information, because there has been since a large increase of population. It was therefore thought better to take as a basis the actual vote polled on the 3rd of November last.

Well, if you take the actual votes polled, what does it show? Take even the government's figures and you find that 11 southern constituencies polled in November 3rd last 10,556 votes, while 11 northern constituencies polled only 9,553 votes. This omits the constituency of Red Deer, which is partly in the north and partly in the south. So, taking the basis proposed by the Minister of the Interior himself, you find that this redistribution gives more representatives to the north than it is entitled to. But if you take the figures prepared by the opposition the disproportion is even greater. And there is probably greater accuracy in the figures prepared by the members of the opposition than in those presented by the government, which were prepared, not by the Prime Minister or by any member of the government, but by the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, who, probably, did not take one-half the trouble in compiling them that was taken by hon. gentlemen on this side in preparing their figures. According to the figures prepared by members of the opposition the 11 southern constituencies polled 10,701 votes and the 11 northern constituencies 9,259. And the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Oliver) also admitted this in regard to the census of 1901:

I think that my hon. friend—

Speaking of the hon. member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster)—

—is in error in suggesting, as my right hon. friend the Prime Minister has already said, that reliance was placed on the number of post offices or anything except the actual number of votes polled. Because this is the actual basis of distribution.

I have shown that more votes were polled in the south than in the north.

Some hon. gentlemen opposite say that they take the number of voters on the list. Well, what does this prove, according to the government's own figures? In the dis-

Mr. W. J. ROCHE.

trict south of township 38 there were 15,895 names on the list and in the northern district 12,863—Red Deer omitted in both cases. These are the government's own figures, and they show that there is absolutely no reason for giving the preponderating representation to the district north of township 38.

As another means of estimating the population, speakers on behalf of the government take the homestead entries, the post office districts, the school districts and the local improvement districts. Well, as to homestead entries, it has been shown by the member for Calgary (Mr. M. S. McCarthy) that more entries have been made, and therefore there has been a larger influx of population, south of township 38 than north of it. The homestead entries in the three years since the census was taken number 9,941 north of township 38 and 13,028 south of township 38; that is, 43 per cent for the north and 57 per cent for the south.

Mr. PETER TALBOT. I think the hon. member (Mr. W. J. Roche) will find those figures incorrect, as no homestead entries were allowed from the Battleford land agency.

Mr. M. S. MCCARTHY. I referred to the map published by the Department of the Interior up to 1st of January, 1905—that is not the date of compilation, but on that map is shown all the townships for which there are printed surveys up to 1st January, 1905. I passed the map over to the hon. gentleman (Mr. Peter Talbot). It will show that there are very few townships for which plans have been printed in the land office at Battleford which go west of the 4th meridian. And if he would look at the map, he will see that his calculation is manifestly unfair. Further, I would point out that part of the district which is west of the 4th meridian in the land office district lies south of 38, but the greater part is north of 38.

Mr. PETER TALBOT. The settled portion is north of 38, certainly. In the vicinity of Lloydminster every available quarter section for many miles is taken up. And there has been a large number of entries made in the Battleford office for land in the constituency of Strathcona.

Mr. M. S. MCCARTHY. It was possible for the Minister of the Interior to have had here every entry in that district, showing where it was. That is the sort of evidence that should be before this House to enable us to determine this matter. Why is it not here?

Mr. W. J. ROCHE. The figures quoted, I believe, are from a return moved for in the regular way in this House and supplied by officers of the government. The figures of land sales support those of homestead entries—about 54 per cent south of town-