

we have the material before us; I would like to know where that material exists. It is obvious that it does not exist in the information afforded by the census of 1901. It seems to me that we can dismiss that at once. The census of 1901 is not acted upon in this Bill for any other purpose and it is absolutely clear that it does not afford us an adequate basis upon which to proceed in the delimitation at the present time. It goes without saying, that a census which showed in this province a population of only 70,000 souls is not a sufficient or safe guide when we are proposing to divide the provinces into constituencies upon the basis of a population of 25,000 souls.

It has been said by the right hon. gentleman, or some of his colleagues, that we have before us certain other information. We have before us the lists of voters upon which the general election of 1903 was conducted. We have before us the lists giving the number of persons who voted at the different polling booths on the 3rd of November last. I am still not much concerned with the question of discrimination between the north and the south, but I venture to submit to the right hon. gentleman that if he is proceeding upon either one or other of these bases the schedule which he has submitted to the House does not commend itself to us as having been very carefully prepared. We have no difficulty with these local municipal divisions about which there has been so much discussion in connection with the redistribution of Ontario. The right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) seems to base his argument largely on the list of those who have voted. If I look at that list I find the arrangement of constituencies quite as unsatisfactory as the list of electors for the different ridings now proposed to be created. Having had some acquaintance with this subject in the session of 1903, when I acted upon a committee to which was entrusted the duty of reporting the distributing of ridings in all parts of Canada, where the distribution was a matter of dispute, I never heard in the committee any suggestion that we should proceed upon the basis of those who have voted in any particular riding. We proceeded always upon the basis of population, and I think it must be apparent to the right hon. gentleman that a list of electors in the riding must be a much better guide to the actual population in the riding than a list of persons who have voted. He has only to consider that for one moment to see the force of that suggestion. The list of voters for each polling division was prepared by officers of the present administration. There cannot be any suggestion of any partisanship against the interests of the administration or against the administration of the Prime Minister's political friends. I do not suggest that there is any partisanship against the interest of those on this side of the House. I must regard these lists for the present as fair and proper lists made up

Mr. R. L. BORDEN.

for the purpose of that election. Are you to take the guide thus afforded, or are you to take the guide afforded by the persons who actually voted? The weather, the many avocations which engage the population, the thoroughness of organization, the activity or popularity of the candidates, the interest taken in the issue at any juncture, a hundred other things which one might mention interfere in the different ridings with the percentage of those who come out to vote. The list made for the purpose of the election is supposed to contain, and we must assume it does contain, the names of all persons who have the right to vote at the election, but the list of those who actually voted contains no such guide, for the very good reasons I have mentioned. The suggestion I make is very well borne out by the results, because in some ridings we find that from 75 to 80 or 85 per cent of the electors voted, while in other ridings, for reasons which have been stated, 55, 60 or 65 per cent only of the electors came forward for the purpose of depositing their ballots. But even assuming that either one or the other of these lists would afford a fair guide to the administration in delimiting the ridings which have been placed before the House in this schedule, I must confess that I cannot understand the principles upon which the government has delimited these different constituencies. Beginning with the list, look at the ridings proposed to be constituted according to the number of voters who actually deposited their ballots in November last. I will take them in their numerical order and not according to district or to area. We find the following results:

Constituency.	Votes polled in November last.
Stony Plain.. . . .	584
Red Deer.. . . .	608
Cardston.. . . .	621
Vermilion.. . . .	632
Leduc.. . . .	676
Macleod.. . . .	715
St. Albert.. . . .	740
Rosebud.. . . .	749
Banff.. . . .	750
Sturgeon.. . . .	772
Gleichen.. . . .	774
Lacombe.. . . .	778
Ponoka.. . . .	794
Wetaskiwin.. . . .	834
Lethbridge.. . . .	858
Strathcona.. . . .	872
Innisfail.. . . .	896
High River.. . . .	971
Medicine Hat.. . . .	1,168
Pincher.. . . .	1,147
Saskatchewan.. . . .	1,237
Edmonton.. . . .	1,340
Calgary.. . . .	2,042

Well, there does not seem to have been a great deal of care taken to distribute these ridings according to population, because we begin in Stony Plain with 584 electors who