

too much to do, and, although this section should have a representative it would be denied that advantage.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I would like to ask the right hon. gentleman a question. I am trying to follow what he says. You have no municipal divisions in Alberta, so far as I know, except the cities. You estimate a certain population based upon the number of voters on the list or on the number who voted, assuming the correctness of that estimate, why is it necessary in applying the unit of population, to have the very great discrepancy shown by the contrast of Stony Plain with 584 votes polled, and Calgary with 2,052? Or leave Edmonton and Calgary out for the moment—I will give reasons why I think they should not be left out—and you have Stony Plain with 584, and Saskatchewan with 1,237. Or Stony Plain with 748 on the voters' list and Pincher with 1,678 on the voters' list. In applying the unit of population,—and that was the basis we adopted in 1903—why do you have such extraordinary discrepancies?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Because in Ontario you were dealing with a compact population, whereas in these new Territories you are dealing with a moving and everchanging population, and you have an uneven population distributed over a large amount of territory. The hon. member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster) has spoken of the feeling against the proposed distribution and asked why we want to have so many members in the north. For my part I have no sympathy with this miserable—no, Mr. Chairman, I shall not use that expression because I do not want to use any offensive word—but I will say these unfortunate appeals to excite division between the north and south. Have we not already divisions enough in this country—division of race and religion?

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. But it will not be my fault, if they do exist.

Mr. FOSTER. The right hon. gentleman always deplores what he himself brings about.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I shall be glad to discuss this subject before the session is over, but do not propose to do so to-day.

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY. I understood the right hon. gentleman to say that High River was thickly-peopled because of its proximity to Calgary. But it is not as near Calgary as Stony Plain is to Edmonton at present.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Why, it is evidently a question, upon the other side, of rivalry between Calgary and Edmonton. But why not discard Calgary and Edmonton in this matter?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY. That is not the case at all, as I have attempted to show by citations from newspapers published in Macleod, which is eighty miles from Calgary, in Medicine Hat which is 200 miles distant, and in Lethbridge which is 120 miles from Calgary.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. My hon. friend will not depart from his local prejudices. It is always with him Calgary and Edmonton, in one form or another. It is always a question with him of north or south. If we have spent the last two days or so, and if we are going to spend Heaven knows how many more on this point, it is simply because there is rivalry between Edmonton and Calgary. My hon. friend would not object to having Stony Plain represented if there were not rivalry between Edmonton and Calgary. Surely no one will object to every section of the community being represented here. Wherever there are settlements, no matter how young or how recently settled, wherever there are men who have a right to the suffrage, why should they not be represented in the legislature of the new province?

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Who is objecting?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. The gentleman whom my hon. friend represents and my hon. friend himself.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I challenge the right hon. gentleman to point to any word I have spoken which raised any such objection. His statement is most unwarrantable.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. If my hon. friend had not that intention, I apologize for attributing it to him.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I have not uttered a word which gives the right hon. gentleman the slightest warrant for making that imputation, and he knows it.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I thought my hon. friend spoke of Stony Plain and Calgary a moment ago.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. There is no use making suggestions which have not the slightest foundation.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I would be the last to impute anything of the kind to my hon. friend and at once accept his statement without any qualification, and absolutely withdraw the imputation. I do not want to impute motives to him. I do not want to charge him with anything of that kind; but when he takes exception to what I have said, I simply refer him to the fact that the whole discussion we have had has been due simply to the rivalry between Calgary and Edmonton. And I repeat the only objection to Stony Plain having one member and to Athabaska having two is that being nearer Edmonton than Calgary, they will be more likely to vote for Edmon-