

longer remain Liberal and consequently it is left untouched.

It is sometimes maintained that cities should not be entitled to the same representation as rural constituencies. We are always subjected to such treatment in Montreal and are not given representation in any way commensurate with our population, and so if in this particular case we should deduct from the figures given us in the Medicine Hat 'Times,' the figures for the cities of Calgary and Alberta which as I understand, may be overlooked for the purposes of an estimate, we find that the nine southern constituencies contained, 79,334 or an average of 8,815. We would consider Innisfail again as neutral and would deduct Edmonton from the north which would give 13 constituencies with a population of 67,590 or an average of 5,199. Might I ask why a rural constituency in the south requires an average of 8,815 in order to have a representative while a rural constituency in the north has a representation for every 5,199? Why require 3,616 more in the south than in the north?

A great deal of time has been spent to-night in discussing the relative rapidity with which the north and the south are filling, and the homestead entries are taken as affording the best basis of comparison. It is not advisable to take the homestead entries of the last 20 years. We have a better test of population in the various distributions, so it is only necessary to take the homestead entries for the last two years or parts thereof. It is easy to make this calculation because the present district of Alberta is almost entirely covered by the Lethbridge, Calgary, Red Deer and Edmonton agencies. A very small portion of Battleford is west of the fourth, but on the other hand a considerable portion of Medicine Hat as we know is also west of principal meridian 4. It is very easy therefore, for us to calculate the returns of the Calgary and Lethbridge offices which are found south of township 34, and compare them with the returns of the Red Deer office which are north of 34. We find that in 1903-4 for the southern part, Lethbridge and Calgary, there were 4,386 homestead entries; in the northern part 3,815, a total of 8,201, of which 53½ per cent lie in the south and 46½ per cent in the north. In 1903-4, as judged by the homestead entries, the south increased much more rapidly than the north. The minister spoke of the homestead entries being brought down to the 31st of March, 1905. We will bring them to this date. That adds nine months to the previous calculation. That gives you for the last 21 months for the south 7,277, and for the north 6,978. Consequently the two southern agencies in the list during the last 21 months have had more entries passed through them than the two northern agencies. Reference has been made to Battleford. Some large figures have been given

in connection with it, and the other day a return was brought down in this House which stated that up the 23rd of January, 1905, there had been 2,847 homestead entries for the Battleford part. If the populations all told were fairly equal when the parliamentary distribution into four constituencies was made, and when the distribution into local constituencies was made, more especially the former, and if as we see by the homestead entries the population during the last 21 months has been flowing in greater numbers into the southern than into the northern portion why do we now give 10½ members below and 14½ above township 34? The hon. member speaks of the prospective increase when the railways come in. Yes, but I would repeat that the first election must take place within six months of the passage of this Act, and after that first election has taken place there will be no more need of this schedule for any subsequent election. What may happen after the present year does not affect the situation in any shape or form.

When the hon. minister begins to speak of offsets, it is perfectly fair for my hon. friend from Calgary (Mr. McCarthy) to speak of the irrigation scheme of the Canadian Pacific Railway, which is to bring 3,000,000 acres under occupation—two-thirds for ranching and one-third for farming. Surely the population that will enter upon that 1,000,000 acres will be quite an offset to anything that may come in along the Great Northern Railway; and the fact that in the next few years there may be 700 or 800 miles of railway through that northern country has nothing to do with the case, because we must base our first distribution on things as they are and not as they may be in the future.

There is another test I would like to apply. That is the test of the local Northwest Territories constituencies of to-day. This division, which gives to the present territory of Alberta, fifteen members, was made by the local Houses in 1902. We have been taught to consider the local House of that day as a non-partisan body. It was so at that time at least. We do not know that politics entered into consideration in this case; and although we have diligently searched, we have been unable to find that any serious exception was taken to the distribution then made. That gave nine seats south of township 38 and six north of the same. You propose to increase the nine to twelve and the six to thirteen. You add one-third to the south and more than double the representation of the north.

I think I have pointed out what reasons the people of Alberta have for being dissatisfied with the schedule before this House. Perhaps you imagine, Sir, that the people of Alberta are not giving this matter their attention. Well, you have only to read the papers from all parts of southern Al-

Mr. AMES.