

registered votes, less in homestead entries, less in every respect, than the three districts out of which I propose to get an additional district for the purpose of the new population on the Soo line. My hon. friend says these four districts are old settlements. So they are; but what does he propose to do? He proposes to get a district for that Soo line country from just as old a settlement as the district he is speaking about. He proposes to take the district of Lumsden, which polled a vote last fall considerably larger than the votes polled in some of these four districts which he has taken under his care, and which has so large an area that you could put almost the whole of those four districts into it, and which had about four times the number of homestead entries since the census was taken of any single one of those four districts of his, and he proposes to take twenty-one townships just south of Regina, the most thickly settled in the Northwest Territories, and add them to the district of Lumsden; and he calls that fair. He calls that leaving undisturbed the old settled areas. I have occupied the attention of the committee a great deal longer than I should have done or than I had any intention of doing. As we sometimes do the work in committee by conversation more than by set speech, some of the other information which I have may more properly be presented in that way.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. The curious part of the schedule proposed for the new province of Saskatchewan is that every one of the arguments made by hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House, and especially by the Prime Minister and the Minister of the Interior, in the case of Alberta, is absolutely destructive of the schedule now proposed. In Alberta reliance was placed by this side of the House upon the federal distribution of 1903. A resolution based upon it was voted down. The hon. gentleman who has just spoken relies upon it in Saskatchewan. Reliance was placed by the Prime Minister and the Minister of the Interior on the principle that electors in rural constituencies should have a greater voice in the legislature than those in urban constituencies. That principle has been shown by my hon. friend from Qu'Appelle to have been entirely cast aside in the proposed distribution. Reliance was then placed on the voters' lists, coupled with information derived from the number of schools, the number of post offices, and the number of homestead entries. If you take the voters' lists, the schools, the post offices and the homestead entries, you will find that this proposed distribution cannot be sustained as an equitable division for one moment.

Take the census of 1901, which was relied upon to some extent in Alberta, and apply it to this, and you have most extraordinary results. In other words, if you take all the

Mr. SCOTT.

information and data, which were used for the purpose of supporting the Alberta division and apply it to Saskatchewan, you have the best possible argument to show that the latter is absolutely unfair, unjust and improper. My hon. friend from Qu'Appelle (Mr. Lake) has gone over the whole subject so thoroughly that not very much needs to be said in addition. Let us just take two illustrations—the district of Humboldt and the district of Souris. You will find that by the census of 1901 there were 582 souls in Humboldt and 5,704 in Souris, or nearly ten times the population in the one that is contained in the other. Each one of these is given a member. If you eliminate the Indians, you find the comparison still worse. Humboldt had in 1901 a population of 271 souls and Souris a population of 5,704. Each one of these districts is now entitled to a representative. Take the votes recorded—178 in Humboldt, 2,554 in Souris; votes registered, 298 in Humboldt, 3,348 in Souris. Between these two extremes you have every possible variety of constituency that can be imagined, both as regards area and population. Another principle which has been absolutely cast to the winds is the supposed principle, relied upon in the case of Alberta, that the area was to be taken into consideration—that a constituency with a very large area might be entitled to a representative although it had a comparatively small population. Well, observe numbers 16 and 17. Number 16, Maple Creek, with votes polled to the number of 846 and registered to the number of 1,198, and an area of 20,699 square miles, is given one member. Humboldt, with 178 votes polled, 298 registered, and an area of 7,657 square miles, or about one-third the area of the other, is given one member.

Mr. ADAMSON. Are you aware of the present population of Humboldt?

Mr. R. L. BORDEN: I am not aware of it nor has any one been able to state it.

Mr. ADAMSON. I can state that the present population of Humboldt is between 8,000 and 10,000.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. We are bound to give the hon. gentleman's statement all the consideration it deserves; but when we are told that a population of perhaps 1,500 has increased in less than a year to 8,000 or 10,000, that affords the best possible reason for having the delimitation determined by a tribunal which could investigate the accuracy of such statements. We do not want to delimit these constituencies according to what one or another may tell us some unnamed person has told him. We heard from the Minister of the Interior that some unnamed person had told him there were 5,000 persons, exclusive of Indians, in that portion of Athabaska to be included in the new province of Alberta. We have no evidence beyond