

that the Hudson Bay Company has built a steam mill in one part, that other people have built other steam mills in other parts, that the Hudson Bay Company and other companies have built and equipped and are running on these waters five steamers since the census was taken, that saw mills and other industrial establishments mentioned by my hon. friend from Strathcona (Mr. Talbot) are in operation in that country and that schools are unquestionably in operation lead us to believe that the census of 1901 in regard to the district of Athabaska is no more correct as representing the population of to-day than it is in regard to the district of Rosebud, which, according to the census, has a population of only a very few over 1,000 people in 1901, but which, in the election of 1904, cast very nearly 1,000 votes. I think it is very unfair that our hon. friends should absolutely ignore the census as being unreliable throughout the southern part of the district of Alberta and as soon as we touch the district of Athabaska rest their case absolutely on the census. If we are to have the census for one part let us have it all over, and if we are to drop the census and take the best estimate we can of present population let us take that estimate all through.

Mr. BARKER. What estimate did the minister give the other day of the present probable population in Athabaska?

Mr. OLIVER. My information is that there are at present about 5,000 people in the western part of the district of Athabaska exclusive of Indians. It is the best information I can get from men who are acquainted with that country, whose homes are there and in whose word I have confidence, but of course I do not say it is as reliable as the census report. However, when these gentlemen opposite ask us to accept estimates of the increase of population in certain parts of the country, they have as good a right to accept our estimates as to another part. If they come down to actual figures and take the census over all the whole province of Alberta, then they have no cause for complaint in regard to the district of Athabaska or any other district.

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY. How much of the population given in the census of 1901 for Athabaska, is in the portion proposed to be taken into Alberta?

Mr. OLIVER. At the suggestion of the hon. gentleman from Toronto (Mr. Foster) I laid on the table of the House to-day the definite figures signed by the census commissioner with regard to localities and distribution of people. It may not be correct but it is authoritative. If the sole question with my hon. friends opposite is as between what lies north of township 38 and what lies south of that township, and there is no question as to the delimitation of the bound-

aries between the constituencies, then it is only a question as to whether there are as many people north of township 38 as there are south of township 38. We are all agreed that the dividing line should be township 38, we do not want a commission of judges to decide that, and if we take the census we find there are more people north of 38 than there are south; we find there are enough people to entitle the district north of 38 to 13 members and the district south of 38 to 12 members. If hon. gentlemen opposite will not accept the census as the basis throughout the entire district of Alberta, they have no title to stand here hour after hour ringing the changes and asking questions based upon the census figures for the district of Athabaska. If they want us to take an estimate in one part of the country let there be an estimate all over, and if it is to be the census in one part let it be the census all through. As to the horror that has been expressed by gentlemen opposite about the disparity of population in the different constituencies of Alberta, I might point out that my hon. friend from Argenteuil (Mr. Perley) and my hon. friend from St. Antoine (Mr. Ames) rang the changes on this question. Did these gentlemen ever hear before of a disparity between the number of votes in one constituency as compared with another? They wanted to know why it took two men in Calgary to be equal in value to one man in Stony Plain, and they seemed to think that was a poser. Well my friend from Argenteuil represents a constituency with a census population of 16,497 and my friend from St. Antoine represents a constituency with a census population of 47,650. It would appear that it takes three men in St. Antoine to equal one man in Argenteuil. In the county of Huntingdon represented by a Conservative in this House there is a census population of 13,979, and in the almost adjoining district of Maisonneuve represented by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, there is a population of 65,158, so that it takes five men in the constituency of Maisonneuve to equal one man in the constituency of Huntingdon. And yet these gentlemen opposite are amazed that there is a discrepancy between the constituencies in the district of Alberta. The constituencies of St. Antoine and Argenteuil and Huntingdon and Maisonneuve are, so to speak, within a stone throw of Ottawa; they are old constituencies, constituencies in which the conditions have been understood from generation to generation; the redistribution of these constituencies has been under the control of the Conservative party for years and years, and yet they never thought of regulating these discrepancies although when the constituencies in Alberta come up for consideration they are overwhelmed with amazement that there should be a discrepancy at all. Parliament after parliament, redistribution after redistribution, census after census,