

white men and half breeds, and dividing that by five, it would give 282 votes for the western part of Athabaska which is put in Alberta. This calculation is made on the figures given by the Prime Minister himself. It seems to me that it is a fair calculation to allow 300 votes for the part of Athabaska that will be in the new province of Alberta. Before I go further I appeal to the Minister of the Interior if it is not correct to say that some of these 300 voters who live in Athabaska are on the voters' lists and vote in old Alberta, in the constituency of the hon. minister. These men are wanderers, they do not live in any particular place, they scatter about, and I have been told that many of the half-breeds that really live in Athabaska and are counted in the census there voted in the constituency of Edmonton at the last election. Now I have come to the figures which it seems to me are the only figures that any reasonable man can say ought to be the basis of the proportion of the different constituencies in this new province of Alberta. In the first place I take the number of votes cast at the last election which is the basis the Minister of the Interior relies on. I have taken the trouble to sift the figures given by the Prime Minister yesterday, and I find that out of the votes cast at the last election, the constituencies numbered No. 8 to No. 7 in this schedule :—Medicine Hat, Cardston, Lethbridge, Macleod, Pincher, Gleichen, Calgary city—these constituencies cast 7,265 votes. The eleven constituencies in the middle numbered No. 1 to No. 18 are fairly dealt with in this Bill. They are given as nearly as possible the unit of the vote cast, and the unit of 1,200 on the voters' lists. At the last election these 11 middle constituencies cast 9,063 votes or an average for each constituency of 824, so that we may dismiss them altogether from the argument.

When the first seven constituencies in the south cast 7,265 votes, how many did the last seven northern constituencies cast—Nos. 19 to 25—Stony Plain, Edmonton City, Saskatchewan, St. Albert, Sturgeon, Peace River and Athabaska? They cast 4,635 votes. Each of the seven southern constituencies cast an average of 1,035 votes, and each of the seven northern constituencies cast an average of 662 votes. Will any man say that that is fair-play—that 7,265 voters in the south should have only as much to say as 4,635 in the north? Now, I may say that the number of voters on the list last November is absolutely the only information before this House that is worth a button with regard to the number of people in the province. According to the figures given by the Prime Minister, which I accept, and which are practically the same as those of my hon. friend from Calgary, the eleven middle constituencies, Nos. 8 to

18, are fairly dealt with. In these eleven constituencies there were, on the voters' list last November, 13,264 votes, an average of 1,206, almost exactly the proper unit for the division of these constituencies. But the first seven in the south had on the voters' list 10,784 votes, an average of 1,540, and the last seven in the north had on the list 5,902, an average of 843. In other words, 10,784 voters in the south are supposed to have only as much to say as 5,902 in the north. Surely no man can claim that that is fair-play. Adding to the north the greatest number of votes that can possibly be expected in the western half of Athabaska, even then the average in the seven constituencies in the north will be only 886, as against an average of the seven constituencies in the south of 1,540. Now, I would like to ask why one vote in Stony Plain is just as good as over two in Pincher. I would like to ask why 156 votes in the city of Calgary are only as good as 100 votes in the city of Edmonton. And, worst of all, by the proposal made in this Bill, it is intended that 300 voters in Peace River and Athabaska shall have twice as much to say as 1,701 voters in Edmonton or 2,653 in Calgary. Are the people in the north so much more intelligent, so much more powerful, so much more wealthy, so much more active, that they are entitled to undue consideration in comparison with the people of the south? I think it is a patent fact known to everybody that the bulk of these people in the north are half-breeds, and people from the south of Europe. In fact, the figures I have read show that only about 10 per cent of the votes in Athabaska are white people, and all the others are half-breeds. Now, it is proposed to give to these half-breed voters in Peace River and Athabaska all this extraordinary and undue predominance in votes. Each of these half-breeds is to wield eighteen times as much power as a man in Calgary, and ten or twelve times as much as a man in Edmonton. It seems to me that if intelligence is to be taken into consideration, it ought to be the other way—the white man should have the greater power of voting, and not the half-breed. I understand that most of these half-breeds can neither read nor write, and that a large number of the people in that country from the south of Europe, know nothing of the sanctity of the franchise—do not understand what it means at all; and I submit that to give a greater proportion of voting power to people of that character is a course that no reasonable man would suggest or expect. My idea is that a fair way of settling this purely local and temporary matter is to give as nearly as possible the same power to every voter in the country in this election. If this new province wishes to give these northern areas undue representation after it becomes a province, that is its own business; but so far as we are concerned,

Mr. PERLEY.