

(f) The said report and the said duplicate thereof shall be signed by the commissioners, or in case of a disagreement, by a majority of them, and the report of the majority of the commissioners shall be the report of the commissioners.

(g) The said report shall be published in the 'Canada Gazette,' and in the official gazette of the said province forthwith after the receipt thereof.

(h) The commissioners may frame rules and orders for regulating the conduct of their proceedings and generally for carrying into effect the provisions thereof.

(i) The letters patent appointing said commissioners shall confer upon them the power of summoning witnesses before them and of requiring such witnesses to give evidence on oath, orally or in writing, or on solemn affirmation (if they are persons entitled to affirm in civil matters) and to produce such documents and things as the commissioners may deem requisite to the full investigation of the matters into which they are appointed to inquire, and the commissioners shall have the same power and authority to enforce the attendance of witnesses and to compel them to give evidence as is vested in the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories in civil cases.

Mr. OLIVER. The hon. member has certainly given us a deluge of statement in support of his plea that the part of the new province of Alberta south of township 39 should have fifteen representatives in the first legislature of the province as against ten in the northern part, but I think he has given very little argument in support of his contention that this question should be referred to a commission of judges. It struck me that the whole argument we have heard in regard to this matter from the other side of the House was very strongly tinged with partisanship, that from beginning to end the argument was on partisanship, and I merely suggest that if the commission of judges were appointed and if it should be so unfortunate as to agree with the schedule placed before the House I am afraid that the commissioners would not be free from accusations of partisanship from my hon. friends on the other side. They could hardly be expected to agree with his very remarkable contention that the situation demands fifteen representatives in the south as against ten in the north. I think that admission on his part is a sufficient evidence as to his desire for a careful judicial decision and a sufficient answer to his assertion of non-partisanship.

In regard to his complaint that my hon. friend from Strathcona (Mr. P. Talbot) and myself have had more or less to do with the preparation of this map and schedule, I do not know that either my hon. friend or myself have any apologies to offer for having given such advice as we may have been able to give to the government in regard to this matter which certainly concerns the constituencies which we represent. I may say, further, that in the early part of the discussion on these Autonomy Bills there

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was an offer made, I think I am safe to say, on the part of my hon. friend and myself, to meet our co-members from the southern part of the province to discuss this amicably, and arrive at a joint conclusion, but we only needed to meet once to find out that our conclusions were as wide apart as the statements which my hon. friend has made in the House and the positions of my hon. friend from Strathcona and myself. In fact I am given to understand they absolutely refused to join in the discussion. However, be that as it may, we have no apologies to offer for having taken it upon ourselves in representing our constituencies—

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY. Does the hon. gentleman pretend to say that I myself or Mr. Herron was ever asked to discuss electoral divisions with him?

Mr. OLIVER. To the best of my belief, yes.

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY. By whom?

Mr. OLIVER. By myself.

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY. Did you ever ask me to discuss electoral divisions with you?

Mr. OLIVER. I cannot be sure, but I think so.

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY. I do not think you can. I wish to emphatically deny that I was ever asked by you or any person else on the other side of the House to discuss electoral divisions.

Mr. LAKE. I may say as far as I am personally concerned also that I was never approached on that subject by any member on the other side of the House with a suggestion to discuss this question.

Mr. HERRON. I might say that the minister did ask me something in connection with the division of my district on one occasion. That was late in the evening and the following morning the Bill was laid before us.

Mr. SCOTT. I would call to the recollection of my hon. friends on the other side of the House that we had a conference in which this matter came up in room 48, on one occasion and the proposal was made at that conference at which the members of the Northwest government as well as I think nearly all our hon. friends from the Northwest Territories who sit on that side of the House were present. The proposition was made by myself.

Mr. LAKE. I was not present on that occasion nor did I hear of it.

Mr. SCOTT. Possibly the hon. member for Qu'Appelle (Mr. Lake) was not present. The member for Calgary was present with Mr. Haultain and Mr. Bulyea.

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY. Do you intend to say that I was present when any mention