

voted in November last, and we end in Calgary with 2,052 electors who voted in the same election, showing a limit of 300 per cent instead of 10 per cent, which I believe has been allowed in the recent instructions from the Colonial Secretary to the commissioners for delimiting the electoral divisions in the Transvaal. If you take the number of electors on the list, you find the same extraordinary discrepancies:

Constituency.	Voters on the list.
Stony Plain.. . . .	748
Cardston.. . . .	851
St. Albert.. . . .	960
Banff.. . . .	1,017
Vermilion.. . . .	1,068
Ponoka.. . . .	1,068
Leduc.. . . .	1,068
Red Deer.. . . .	1,095
Sturgeon.. . . .	1,098
Macleod.. . . .	1,121
Lacombe.. . . .	1,182
Rosebud.. . . .	1,189
Lethbridge.. . . .	1,236
Gleichen.. . . .	1,260
Strathcona.. . . .	1,291
Innisfail.. . . .	1,295
Wetaskiwin.. . . .	1,416
High River.. . . .	1,528
Medicine Hat.. . . .	1,650
Pincher.. . . .	1,678
Edmonton.. . . .	1,689
Saskatchewan.. . . .	1,757
Calgary.. . . .	2,682

You see practically the same discrepancy, running from Stony Plain with 748 electors on the list to Calgary with 2,682 electors on the list. There is every variation of population between the lowest and the highest, there does seem to be no principle based on population, to which you can attribute the preparation of these ridings. Perhaps the right hon. gentleman will do me the kindness to state now how it is that we have these extraordinary discrepancies upon the list which I have before me; and as to the figures, there is not any great dispute between the hon. members on this side of the House and those on that side of the House. Now that is the situation as it strikes me at present. In dealing with these constituencies it seems to me that we ought to have regard, in the first place, as I said before, to this prime question: Can we possibly have in this committee the information which is necessary to make a fair and just distribution of the ridings in these two provinces? I do not think so. I have read the debates with a great deal of care, and I do not think that this House possesses any such information as should be before us for that purpose. The very circumstance that hon. gentlemen on that side of the House, and hon. gentlemen on this side of the House, acting I have no doubt in both cases with the utmost good faith, arrived at such different and irreconcilable conclusions, seems to me a strong reason for suggesting to the Prime Minister that some independent tribunal, with the

same means of investigation as those which he proposed to confer upon the commission in 1899 should be appointed for delimiting these constituencies. In the next place, and for the sake of argument only, for what reason is it that you are acting upon either the one or the other of these lists showing the extraordinary discrepancies in the population of the different ridings as disclosed by the lists which I have just read to the committee?—and I will hand a copy of these to the right hon. gentleman for the purpose of information, if these discrepancies have not already impressed themselves upon his attention. We ought to conclude that this division can be much better done by an independent body having the means of investigation which I have referred to; and if the government does not adopt that very reasonable principle, that very fair conclusion, then it seems to me that some principle should be stated which would be applicable both to the province of Alberta and to the province of Saskatchewan, and upon which the government can show that they have acted in delimiting the ridings which are contained in the schedules to both Acts. Now I understand that the principle which has been stated from the other side of the House with regard to the province of Alberta produces the most extraordinary results when applied to the province of Saskatchewan, as was set forth in the speech of my hon. friend from Qp'Appelle (Mr. Lake). It does not seem that the principle which was put forward and which was illustrated by my hon. friend from Qu'Appelle can really be the principle upon which the government has proceeded. It has been suggested that the ridings have been delimited, and that a principle is now sought for the purpose of supporting that division. I do not suggest this, but if any such course has been pursued, it is obviously not a proper and fair course. Some principle should be adopted, and a very proper principle I think is to adopt a principle and have it carried out, a commission of judges or to a commission of independent and trustworthy persons. If that principle is not adopted, then surely it lies with the government to show the principle upon which they have acted and to apply that principle without fear or favour, not only to the province of Alberta, but to the province of Saskatchewan as well.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I do not propose on this Bill to discuss in any way the schedules which have been submitted to my hon. friend with regard to the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. It is simply the principle.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. The principle is the same in both cases. I will come to that presently, but I do not think it will be consistent with the rules of debate or at all conducive to any good result that we should