

years, while other districts had been increasing in population.

Mr. SCOTT. Will my hon. friend tell me what principle the assembly followed in the previous redistribution?

Mr. LAKE. I was not in the assembly at the time of the previous redistribution. I still point to the fact that the redistribution made in 1902 took into consideration the three great divisions of the country—Assiniboia, Alberta and Saskatchewan—and that the seats for these three provisional districts were distributed in such a way as to make only a variation of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent in the number of seats given to each of these provisional districts. Further than that while Batoche, Moosejaw and Prince Albert were all represented in that House there was no serious criticism of this measure. The member for Prince Albert was the only one to introduce an amendment which was to the effect that there should be 36 seats. The question was where would the odd seat go. Provision was made for 35 seats already, and with 35 seats Saskatchewan was getting  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent the advantage of the district of Assiniboia. There was no serious objection to that redistribution at all or else we should have heard of it. There is no question about that. At any rate we find that those gentlemen on the other side of the House are most anxious to take it where it suits them and they are leaving it and discarding it where it does not suit them.

Mr. OLIVER. Before the hon. gentleman closes, would he tell the House what this has to do with Alberta?

Mr. HAGGART. It has everything to do with it.

Mr. LAKE. It is all pointing to a moral. We have been told to-day that the government have proceeded with this distribution upon principle; that they have adopted the principle of being guided by the voters' lists and the votes cast on the 3rd of November last and by justice and fair-play. I am simply making a comparison of the two districts. As a matter of fact it appears to me that the gerrymander, shall I call it, in Saskatchewan is so glaring that it must in itself call attention to the fact that there has been something wrong in the distribution of seats in Alberta. Of course when the schedules of the province of Saskatchewan come up I will be prepared to go into the figures in regard to that province at far greater length than I have done; I have not completed my notes in regard to that matter, and I have spent a good many weary hours over it. What I ask is that the principles of fair-play which prevail throughout I think the whole British empire, as well as the English speaking people of the world, should govern in this case, that there should be a fair distribution of these seats in regard to population, that

where certain existing local conditions render it absolutely necessary that there should be a variation in the numbers allotted to each seat, it should not exceed 10 per cent, but that discrimination should certainly not be allowed as against a whole district; that it might take place up to that percentage as an extreme limit in certain individual cases. And yet we find according to the figures of the Prime Minister himself that between the northern and southern portion of the old district of Alberta, leaving out the two new constituencies, the government propose to put in the north, there is a discrimination in favour of the north on the votes actually cast of 10 per cent and on the voters' lists of about 22 per cent. All we ask is a fair distribution according to the best information we have in regard to the voting population of that country and the voting population has been given to us within a year from the time at which these new elections will have to be held.

Progress reported.

#### FIRST READING.

Bill (No. 185) for the relief of Isaac Pitblado.—Mr. Barker.

Mr. FIELDING moved the adjournment of the House.

Mr. HAGGART. Could any of the ministers inform us what business will be proceeded with to-morrow.

Mr. FIELDING. We will continue the same programme.

Mr. HAGGART. Nothing before?

Mr. FIELDING. I would suggest that perhaps it would be an understanding that the general discussion which has taken place might be brought to a conclusion, and that we might then take up the schedules in their order. However that will develop to-morrow.

Motion agreed to, and the House adjourned at 12 o'clock, midnight.

### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THURSDAY, June 22, 1905.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

#### FIRST READING.

Bill (No. 184) to amend the Act respecting the Naturalization of Aliens.—Mr. Brodeur.

#### CONTRACT WITH THE NORTH ATLANTIC TRADING COMPANY.

Mr. F. D. MONK. Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would ask my hon.