

say that the country had something like 500,000 population at the first of July this year. I presume in making that estimate the Minister of Justice was counting all the so called 3,000 white settlers who had gone into the west for whom my hon. friends are figuring representation. That is not very satisfactory as far as the country in the Athabaska and Peace River is concerned. If the government are satisfied to give fair and adequate representation to Athabaska or to that portion of Athabaska which is cut in two to give representation in this provincial legislature, which we are agreed to there would be no difficulty as I understand in connection with this schedule, but the whole thing hinges on that and that is where the unfairness comes in and what hon. gentlemen on this side are complaining of.

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY. In making up the estimate of the vote cast in Strathcona, no doubt there has been included a considerable number of voters who do not now reside in Alberta. There are in the constituency of Strathcona alone, over 50 townships which now lie east to the 4th meridian, and these have not been eliminated from the total vote cast. If the vote was so much in that neighbourhood a large portion of it should be eliminated. The same thing applies to the constituency of Edmonton in the northeast part of that district. That is not now in the province of Alberta. I would ask the member for Strathcona (Mr. Peter Talbot) as he must have some local knowledge how far on an air line would the southern part of the constituency of Peace River or Athabaska be to the end of railway construction.

Mr. PETER TALBOT. I cannot give the information but I think you could tell from the map.

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY. I figure it that the nearest route to Athabaska from the end of railway construction would be 125 miles, and to the northern limit of the riding it would be in the neighbourhood of 500 miles. In the constituency of Peace River these figures would be increased as they are in a nearly westerly direction from Edmonton to the end of railway construction. Comparisons have been made and I would like the hon. gentleman in these comparisons to point out any constituency which has representation in any of the local houses where there are no lines of communication nearer to them than upwards of 125 miles. That I think is sufficient evidence of the state of settlement in those districts. The hon. member for Strathcona has made the statement that in his constituency there is much more settlement and much more desirable farming land than in any other part of the Territories; that the constituencies to the south are exclusively ranching constituencies.

Mr. PETER TALBOT. Mainly.

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY. The member for Alberta last night gave a comparison of the yield of the different grains per acre and it was found from that as has been shown in the geography published by the Department of the Interior that the yield in the south was greater per acre than in the north. It is generally accepted in this country that because originally the people in the southern and central part of Alberta preferred to devote their time to what was more profitable, the cattle industry, it was not a farming country, but if they would look to the records of the department they would find on either side of the city of Calgary, for instance, that great improvements have occurred, that grain is being grown and perhaps larger yields per acre can be shown than in any other part of the Northwest Territories. I have letters here which I will not take up the time of the committee reading to show exactly what these yields were, where the yields were and they were to be found on every side of the city of Calgary. The constituency of Calgary is as well adapted to farming as the constituency represented by the hon. gentleman opposite. That hon. gentleman also says that there is no thick settlement in the Calgary district, that the ranches consist of a very great area, but I would point out to him that in Lethbridge and Cardston there is a huge irrigation scheme known as the Galt Irrigation scheme or the Great Northwestern Irrigation scheme comprising 1,500,000 acres. The bulk of that land is all taken up. It is a thickly peopled portion of the country. Half a mile from the irrigation block there is the town of Raymond which last fall showed a voters' list of less than 200 and which to-day has a population of 2,800. Hon gentlemen opposite can show nothing in regard to northern constituencies which can compare with the irrigation block of the Great Northeastern Company or which is capable of sustaining the same population within the same area. The same may also be said of the irrigation block of the Canadian Pacific Railway near Calgary which embraces 3,000,000 acres capable of sustaining a population of 120,000 people. Four hundred thousand acres of that have already been disposed of and half a million acres are to-day on the market. Therefore, I say that the argument which is made that there is no dense settlement in the south is not based upon facts. I referred some time ago to a map I had showing the thickly and sparsely settled townships in the southern and northerly parts of the country and it bears out what I say that there are more thickly settled townships in the southern part than in the northern part. The hon. gentleman refers to a gentleman who has given him certain information in regard to the conditions as they exist in the proposed district of Peace River—Mr. Breden, a mem-