

is now Stony Plain and part of what is now Sturgeon and St. Albert. Stony Plain is a new constituency between the Rocky Mountains and the different constituencies which I have named, that is Red Deer, Lacombe, Ponoka, Wetaskiwin, Leduc and Strathcona. All that very large section of territory between the Rocky Mountains, the western limit of the province, and the different constituencies I have named, is now made into the constituency of Stony Plain. There is a new constituency of Sturgeon. It is confined between the city of Edmonton and the constituency of Saskatchewan, the district of Athabaska and St. Albert on the west. It comprised part of Edmonton and what is now Victoria. Saskatchewan is a new district comprised chiefly of part of Victoria and the new part of the Saskatchewan district which has been annexed to the province of Alberta. There is a new district called St. Albert. It was a constituency before, but it is not so large a constituency now. All these make a total of twenty-three constituencies.

Mr. FOSTER. Twenty-two, I have.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Twenty-three it must be. I will recapitulate—Medicine Hat, Cardston, Lethbridge, Macleod, Pincher, High River, Calgary City, Banff, Gleichen, Rosebud, Innisfail, Red River, Lacombe, Ponoka, Wetaskiwin, Leduc, Strathcona, Edmonton City, Stony Plain, Vermillion, Sturgeon, Saskatchewan, and St. Albert. That makes 23. These are the 23 constituencies in the old district of Alberta in which is included two constituencies which were formerly in Saskatchewan; that is to say part of Vermillion, Saskatchewan, and Medicine Hat. With regard to Athabaska, we have given two constituencies to Athabaska, and the reason is this: There is now a small population, not a very large population in Athabaska. I would remind my hon. friend that there is a wide difference between the western part of Athabaska and the eastern part. The eastern part; that is to say the part which is north of Saskatchewan has not yet been settled. There may be a few hunters and a few Indians, but there is no settled population there, whereas in the western part of Athabaska there are settlers now going up on the Peace river which is a good fertile district, in which population is increasing, in which there is agriculture, in which there are to-day two grist mills. Then you have the river Athabaska district which is the line of travel from the north to the south and in which there are several small establishments. It has been hinted, I think by my hon. friend from Calgary (Mr. M. S. McCarthy) that these two districts were not entitled to two representatives. I grant at once that perhaps they are a little below the unit—but I invite the criticism of my hon. friend from Calgary as to the reasons why we gave two representatives. They

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

are these. If we only gave one representative to the district of Athabaska which is comprised within the province of Alberta, it would be absolutely physically impossible for any man to cover that district within the time of the election—the distances are too great, the difficulties of communication are too serious, and therefore these people would have to remain practically unrepresented; they could not have the advantage of seeing their member and their member could not see them, and for these reasons we have thought it would not only not be right, but it would not be just and fair that these people should not have the advantage of representation. I will give to my hon. friend the division of the different constituencies I have just named.

Mr. FOSTER. Is my right hon. friend going to give me the census population or the voting population?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Both. In the present constituency of Cardston the votes polled at the last election were 645 and the 1901 census population, 3,203.

Mr. FOSTER. My right hon. friend is now speaking of the census population?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Yes.

Mr. FOSTER. Has any endeavour been made to get the present population?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Yes.

Mr. FOSTER. Will that be given as well?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I am not familiar with that, but it will be given by my hon. friend (Mr. Oliver). We have endeavoured to get at the present population by different data such as the number of post offices, entries of homesteads, and such data as is in our possession and which we thought would be more correct than guess work.

Mr. FOSTER. Are you giving the number of votes polled or the number of voters?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. The number of votes polled.

Mr. FOSTER. Why do you give that instead of the number of names on the voters' lists?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I have the number of names on the voters' lists, but it is not in my possession at the present moment.

Mr. FOSTER. The only reason why you would take the votes at all is as an indication as to an estimate of the population. If you give the votes polled you could come to no conclusion as to the population, because various causes might prevent the registered voters polling their votes.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I propose to give both during the discussion.