

for the first time the number of names enrolled upon the list. Are we expected to grapple with that subject and decide upon it without deliberate consideration. I submit to the First Minister that this is a most important matter to the people of the west and that the government should not go to it blindly, or ask their supporters to go to it blindly upon the evidence which they have submitted to-day. What the people of that country desire is that they should have an opportunity of being heard in the matter; an opportunity of representing their case to some body which will listen and give attention to it. I am not suggesting that they would not receive attention here, but I submit that the evidence is not at hand which would enable the members of this House to decide what a fair electoral division of that country would be. The people of the west desire to have some independent tribunal before which these local constituencies could place their claims, such for instance that of the town of Olds which has forwarded a resolution protesting that they are placed right upon the line of two constituencies. I would urge on the First Minister that this is not a party matter. Local politics in that country have not hitherto been fought out on party lines, and probably they will not be in the next elections. This is a matter in which the government can afford to be fair and to give to the respective portions of that country an opportunity of stating their case. If any person doubts my assertion that this is not a party question, let him read the Liberal press in southern and central Alberta, and he will soon be assured that just as strong objections come from the Liberals as from the Conservatives. The Prime Minister has expressed a desire to be fair, and he has now a grand opportunity of showing to the people of that country that his professions are something more than empty sound. If the Prime Minister does not choose to accept the figures I have given him; if he prefers to listen to the men who happen to have his ear; then it is not unfair that I should ask on behalf of, I believe, of 95 per cent of the people of southern and central Alberta, irrespective of politics, that they should have an opportunity of presenting their case to an independent tribunal. That is what they desire, and they will abide by the result knowing they must abide by it. If my suggestion is adopted by the government, it will have the effect of alleviating that sectional fight between the north and the south which this division is going to continue for many years to come. I shall therefore move Mr. Chairman that the distribution be transferred to a judicial committee. But, before I read the amendment I might point out that in it I have specified that the personnel of the committee shall be the justices of the Supreme Court in the province of Alberta. I may say that one of these gentlemen has been Assistant Attorney General in the legislative assembly for a number of years and has a

thorough knowledge of existing conditions in that country. Another of the Supreme Court judges, the Chief Justice, when the distribution of 1902 was made, was Commissioner of Public Works at Regina, and the third judge has resided in that country since, I think, the year 1881, and has lived in both the northern and southern portions. I am not making this motion with any desire of obtaining any party advantage. I might remark two out of the three Supreme Court judges have been recently appointed by this government; not that I am suggesting that their political views lean that way now, for I suppose they are expected to abandon politics when they go upon the bench. However, two out of these three judges have been recently appointed by this government and the third was appointed under the Conservative administration. I think my proposition is manifestly fair, and it will I am sure satisfy the First Minister that no attempt is being made to take any advantage in a political sense. I therefore beg to move seconded by Mr. Herron:—

That section 12 be struck out and that the following be substituted therefor:

12. Until the said legislature otherwise provides the legislative assembly shall be composed of 25 members, to be elected to represent the electoral divisions hereinafter mentioned.

(a) Such division shall be made by a board of commissioners consisting of at least three persons resident in the said province and being judges of the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories who shall for that purpose be appointed by letters patent under the great seal immediately after the coming into force of this Act, and who shall divide the said province into twenty-five electoral divisions.

(b) The letters patent appointing the commissioners shall require the commissioners, in making the divisions, to have due regard to the distribution of population, the public convenience, the existing local divisions and such other considerations as appear to them best calculated to do substantial justice.

(c) In case of the death or resignation or refusal of any one or more of such commissioners to act, a successor or successors shall in like manner be appointed, and in the event of there being no resident judge or judges available any judge or judges of the said Supreme Court may be appointed such successor or successors.

(d) Within a time to be limited by the said letters patent the commissioners shall complete such divisions and report the same to the Lieutenant Governor of the said province, setting forth in such report the boundaries of the electoral divisions to which such report refers and the ranges, townships and sections comprised therein, and shall assign an appropriate designation to each electoral division. Upon receipt by the Lieutenant Governor of the said province of the report of the commissioners completing the divisions aforesaid, the respective territories described as constituting the respective electoral divisions into which the said province shall have been divided as aforesaid shall become and be the electoral divisions of the said province as if the same had been so set apart and established as such by this Act.

(e) The commissioners shall also within the said time limited forward a duplicate of their said report to the Secretary of State.