

Mr. HERRON. I acknowledge we have two, but I think you will admit we were entitled to them.

Mr. OLIVER. So you were before but you did not get them.

Mr. HERRON. We were trusting and we were entitled to it five years ago.

Mr. OLIVER. You had to wait for this Bill to get justice.

Mr. HERRON. We are getting partial justice now.

Mr. AMES. Has the minister read the Macleod 'Gazette' of May 18 and the Pincher Creek 'Rocky Mountain Echo' on this question?

Mr. OLIVER. I have not.

Mr. AMES. He will there find all the protest he wants.

Mr. OLIVER. What I have already said to the House will show how reasonable those protests are, when they are getting twice the representation under this that they had before.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. The population is increasing.

Mr. LAKE. I wish to ask the Prime Minister whether he has acted on exactly the same basis in the distribution of seats in Saskatchewan as in the distribution of seats in Alberta?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I may say to my hon. friend that the object is to have regard to geographical distribution of population.

Mr. LAKE. I understood the Prime Minister yesterday to say that the policy was to employ as the greatest test the census of 1901 and to use the population of 1901. Would that be the main principle guiding that distribution in Saskatchewan?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Oh, I think not; all the sources of information that were used in Alberta would be used also for Saskatchewan.

Mr. LAKE. The strongest reason given for the distribution in Saskatchewan was the number of votes cast in the election of November, 1903, that number having preference over the number of voters on the list. That was the main principle applied in Alberta, and I presume exactly the same principle has been applied in Saskatchewan. I suppose there can be no question about that. Two seats are given to that portion of Athabaska which has been added to the province of Alberta. I understood the Prime Minister to say that the principal reason in his mind for giving two seats to that district was the great distances between the settlements which made it physically impossible for one man to cover the whole district and

to properly represent it. Could I have an answer to that question?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. My information was that the information in each district was confined to the river shores, and the population was on the river. The chief centres of population in both districts are on the river.

Mr. LAKE. How far were the rivers apart?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I could not say.

Mr. OLIVER. Between the settlement at Lesser Slave lake and the settlement at Peace River, which is the nearest point at which they approach until they finally join, the distance is between 90 and 100 miles, and from that they diverge to a distance of about 200 miles apart, and finally they come together after a considerable distance.

Mr. LAKE. I ask this question to call attention to the fact among the electoral districts of the legislative assembly we have had one district electing a single member which I think would comprise a greater area than the settlements in the district of Athabaska, to which it is proposed now to give two members. I speak of the district of Kinistino, which, roughly speaking, is over 300 miles from east to west and about 210 miles from north to south. But there has been no difficulty in holding an election for that district. It had 682 votes cast at the last election, a larger number than I think will be cast in these two constituencies in Athabaska at the first election for the new legislature, probably twice as many. I do not know what map the Prime Minister has before him, but I notice that in most of the maps which have been supplied by this government the old distribution of seats was given, which does not contain the district of Kinistino as it exists at present. The old maps give the old distribution which was in force before 1902, when a redistribution was made by the legislative assembly. I have one of the new maps, and I can assure him that the figures I have given as to the distance are practically correct. There has been no practical difficulty in that large district. The polls were held at very extreme distances, and the proclamation, I think, had to be delayed for a fortnight before all the returns could be obtained.

Mr. LAMONT. Would the hon. gentleman wish us to understand that in Kinistino the election was held at the same time in all the polling divisions?

Mr. LAKE. I have no doubt the election was held on the same day in all of them.

Mr. LAMONT. They were not. The distances are so great in the Kinistino district that in some of the polling divisions