

These are the figures as given by the government. I do not think they are absolutely correct; I compiled figures on my own account, but I find my figures and the government figures sufficiently near to enable me to accept the government figures as sufficiently accurate for the purpose of the argument which I propose to make. In the original schedule proposed by the government there was an average of 1,328 votes cast in each electoral district in the south, while there was only an average of 571 votes cast in each electoral district in the northern constituencies. It would be seen therefore that considerably more than double the representation to which they were entitled was given to the people in the north, according to the original schedules, than was given to the people in the south. There was also an average of 1,856 names on the voters' lists of each constituency in the south as compared with an average of 1,036 names on the voters' lists in each constituency in the north. Under the proposed original distribution, also, there was according to the census a population of 4,067 in each electoral division in the south and an average population of 2,076 in each electoral division in the north. I wish to put this on record as showing the way in which the original distribution proposed by the government worked out.

Mr. SPROULE. One man in the north seemed to be equal to two in the south.

Mr. LAKE. Under the amendment proposed by the Prime Minister which has been laid on the table of the House and which gives sixteen seats to the south and nine to the north, instead of fifteen seats to the south and ten to the north as originally proposed, I find that, taking the census of 1901, there was an average population for each of the twenty-five constituencies, omitting Indians, of 3,222. Taking the votes polled on the 3rd November, 1904, there would be an average of 1,026 to each of the twenty-five constituencies, and an average of 1,529 names on the voters' lists of each constituency.

We find that the distribution provides for sixteen seats in the southern portion. There are to each of these constituencies, according to the population of 1901, omitting Indians, 3,813 persons; according to the votes polled on the 3rd of November, 1904, 1,245 votes; and, according to the number of voters on the list at the same date, 1,740 votes. In each of the nine constituencies in the northern portion of the district, the old district of Saskatchewan, there is according to the population of 1901, omitting Indians, an average of 2,307 persons, an average of votes polled on the 3rd of November, 1904, of 635, and an average number of votes on the list, 1,151. These were the three main bases on which the government proceeded with the distribution of

seats in the province of Alberta. They also took the number of post offices. From the post office guide I estimate that the number of post offices in the northern portion of Saskatchewan is about 100, and the number in the southern portion 285. The number of schools was also taken into consideration. I find that in the northern portion of Saskatchewan there are, roughly speaking, 200 schools, and in the southern portion 575. As further corroborative evidence, the number of local improvement districts in Alberta was quoted. I am informed by a telegram which was sent to me yesterday by Mr. Bulyea of the Public Works Department at Regina, that in the northern district of Saskatchewan there are only eight districts organized, as against 151 in the southern portion. He goes on to say:

A large portion of Saskatchewan is eligible for organization, but information and petitions come too late for action this year.

We were told that the number of homestead entries should also be taken into consideration as evidence of the trend of population. I find that in the nine northern constituencies, from 1901 to May or June, 1905, there were 17,424 homestead entries, and in the southern portion 31,611, which also goes to show that there has been a larger immigration into the southern portion of that district than there has been into the northern portion. It will of course be readily understood that when a new population comes into a new district, practically everybody who goes in takes up a homestead. I well remember that in the early eighties, when the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway first opened up the Northwest, practically every man who came to the country and was eligible to take up a homestead, made his entry. It cost him only \$10, and he could take up a homestead quite close to a town. A great many of these entries were subsequently abandoned. I fancy that this will be found to be the case very largely in the northern part of Saskatchewan. Almost every railroad man who came into that country took up a homestead, as it might become very valuable to him if he could keep his hold on it without going upon it and putting in his settlement duties. In the last three or four years matters have been very different. In the southern portion of the province it has been practically impossible to get a homestead within a reasonable distance of the railway. People have been going into the older and well known districts, where it is known that farming can be satisfactorily carried on. As they have purchased land, we do not of course find their names among the homestead entries. A great number have also come in to work for farmers. These have not been able to find homesteads near at hand, and we do not find their names among the homestead entries. A great