

you have these things and steamboats plying on the rivers you have the elements of population. What the present population is I have no means of knowing.

Mr. SPROULE. I think we could find from the report of the Department of Indians Affairs how many scholars there are in attendance at each of these schools. I think that would be interesting and valuable information to have.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. That information can be obtained, and I should be glad to have it at the next sitting of the House when we take up this matter clause by clause. I have a statement of the school attendance which has been prepared with some pains and is signed by Mr. Caldwell who had a right to sign it. The number of school children attending school north of township 38 in the district of Athabaska is 8,834 and south of that including Red Deer the number of school children in attendance is 8,553, or a difference of nearly 300, in favour of the north.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. That includes the mission schools and all?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. That includes the mission schools that receive the allowance.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. That does not give us much information about the schools in this district. If you can give us the attendance for the whole province, what is the objection to giving us the attendance for this particular unorganized district?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. None, except that we have not got it; we may have it tomorrow.

Mr. INGRAM. I would like to ask the First Minister if the defeated Liberal candidates for Alberta and Calgary were asked their opinion of the division of this province? Were they summoned in connection with it?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. They were not asked for their opinion, they gave it voluntarily.

Mr. INGRAM. Would the minister state whether they approved of the schedule as we have it before us?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. If I remember right, they thought Calgary has not sufficient representation.

Mr. INGRAM. How about Alberta?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I cannot tell.

Mr. TURRIFF. As regards the defeated candidate for Alberta, he was in town last week, and he told me that he considered the whole redistribution for the province as eminently fair, and he had no objection to make in any shape or form.

Mr. INGRAM. Will the hon. gentleman be good enough to say what Dr. Stewart told him?

Mr. TURRIFF. As for Dr. Stewart, the defeated candidate for Alberta, all I can say is that I understood he objected.

Mr. INGRAM. The First Minister, in closing his remarks a short time ago, stated that if there was no seat of government to be chosen in the province, we would hear no complaint about the distribution of seats. Now let us apply a little of what I call common sense to the consideration of this question in relation to the distribution for the province of Alberta. Any hon. gentleman who has visited the Northwest Territories, especially the province of Alberta, knows perfectly well that there are strong local jealousies in the several towns of that district. When you are at Calgary the people are to be credited for that spirit, and will tell you they have the finest city and country under the sun and they advocate Calgary as the seat of government. When you pass along to Red Deer they say they have got the finest country, and that Calgary or Edmonton are not in it with Red Deer. So it is when you reach Edmonton. Now they are to be credited for that spirit, and I have no fault to find with it. But knowing that to be true, and knowing that a government seat is to be chosen for the new province of Alberta, it is evident that great efforts will be put forth by the people of these three towns to obtain the government seat. That is common sense, that is perfectly true, and no man can deny it. Now at the time these schedules were to be prepared, in whose hands were they placed? They were placed in the hands of two gentlemen, one representing Edmonton (Mr. Oliver) and the other Strathcona (Mr. Talbot).

Mr. SCOTT. Not at first, but in the hands of Mr. Haultain.

Mr. INGRAM. No. Never mind Mr. Haultain; he has very little influence with this government. Now these two gentlemen had the preparation of these schedules. We have their own statement as evidence, and do not require any other. Now the hon. gentleman representing Edmonton and the hon. gentleman representing Strathcona knowing the great pull each of these towns would exert in order to get the seat of government, naturally were representing their constituencies and acting in their interest, and in their interest only. Why? Because the Minister of the Interior at that time was a private member representing Edmonton, and the hon. gentleman representing Strathcona was not representing Alberta or Calgary. As a result, what did the member for Strathcona admit in this House? Why, he said, I looked over Athabaska, I figured out all these stores, all these mills, the immense amount of capital invested in Athabaska, and I concluded that that portion of Athabaska