

give a member to Calgary, Regina and Moosejaw, I do not see on what principle Prince Albert can be cut out. There are a few facts to which I will call attention in reference to the Prince Albert seat. Until the redistribution of 1902, which my hon. friend (Mr. Lake) says was fair and just, Prince Albert had two seats, East and West Prince Albert, and the Haultain administration in 1902 cut out one of these seats, putting a large portion of it into Prince Albert West forming one seat, and putting the polling divisions down the Saskatchewan river into Kinistino. To my mind and to the mind of the Prince Albert people that was most unjust. It was stated in the district, it was stated in the legislature that it was an unjust gerrymander, and the votes cast at the next election proved that to be the case. The Haultain government took away one seat from Prince Albert and formed a new seat of Saskatoon. Prince Albert at the next election had a vote of 771 while Saskatoon had a vote of only 376. Between Prince Albert and Kinistino was divided the extra territory which up to that time had been in Prince Albert. Up to that time there had been three seats, but by the 1902 redistribution they only were given two. These two seats provided a vote of 1,453 at the next election whereas the three other seats in Saskatchewan in which elections were held gave only 1,065 votes, so that the Haultain administration divided 1,065 votes into three seats, whereas they only divided 1,453 votes into two seats, taking one seat away from Prince Albert. Yet my hon. friend (Mr. Lake) says that was a fair redistribution.

It was stated over and over again on the platform and elsewhere that the reason for cutting off one seat from Prince Albert was because Prince Albert East and Prince Albert West returned two strong opponents of the Haultain government, while Saskatoon was supposed to be friendly, and at the next election Saskatoon returned a government supporter, while in the two seats that had been fused into one in Prince Albert the government nominee lost his deposit. Now, Mr. Chairman, I do not intend to take up the time of the committee further. It seems to me that if we look at this question on fair and broad principles, if we take the 10 southern and the 10 northern seats as laid out by Mr. Haultain—and in which distribution my hon. friend (Mr. Lake) had a part—and if we take the homestead entries in each of these 10 seats since 1901 we are forced to the conclusion that a fair distribution of the extra five seats we have to add to Saskatchewan, would be 3 to the north and 2 to the south. In my opinion if we were to consider the prospective increase, it should be 4 in the north and 1 in the south, but certainly not less than 3 in the north and 2 in the south. I believe that before the next local election, if the term of the legislature runs four years, there will be a vastly

greater population in the north than there is in the south.

Mr. LAKE. My hon. friend (Mr. Lamont) has taken up a great deal of time trying to prove what a terrible gerrymander was made by the Haultain government in 1902, but the opinion of the gentleman (Mr. Scott) who sits beside him was very different at the time the Haultain redistribution was made. The Regina 'Leader' of the 24th of April, 1902, says:

The other matter is the Redistribution Bill, in regard to which not even the faintest odour of gerrymander could be detected. The prevailing idea in the distribution is the basis of population and area combined, and the principle acted upon is very similar to that in the Dominion Acts for a similar purpose; these have the population of Quebec as a starting point, and Mr. Haultain takes the population of Saskatchewan.

Mr. HENDERSON. Whose paper said that?

Mr. LAKE. The paper of the hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Scott).

Mr. LAMONT. The hon. member for West Assiniboia was a very strong supporter of Mr. Haultain's then, I would presume from that article.

Mr. BARKER. But he would not say what was not true?

Mr. LAMONT. Read what the Prince Albert 'Advocate' said about it and you will get the other side.

Mr. HENDERSON. The Regina 'Leader' is a better authority.

Mr. LAKE. I was in the legislature at that time, and I know that there was no criticism to amount to anything of that distribution. It was generally accepted as fair.

Mr. LAMONT. Did not Mr. Mackay state on the floor of the legislature that it was a very bad gerrymander?

Mr. LAKE. Mr. Mackay was the only one who suggested the idea of gerrymander at all, and he did it, not in a very determined manner. He was a member of the opposition at the time and if the rest of the members of the opposition had any idea that there was a gerrymander, the Bill would not have gone through as it did in the course of a few minutes, accepted practically by the whole House without discussion. In the distribution, as the Regina 'Leader' said, Saskatchewan is taken as a basis and one member was given for every 4,279 of the population according to the census of the previous year. In Assiniboia one member was given for every 4,492 of the population, and in Alberta one member for every 4,700 of the population. It was as even a distribution as it was possible to make. If there had been only the same differences in the present Bill we should not have had much to say against it.