

I may say that information was obtained in regard to homestead entries, from the actual settlers, from the land offices, from the Hudson Bay Company, from the Manitoba government. In connection with the Manitoba and North Western Land Grant the sales of school lands, from the Canadian Pacific Railway, from the Calgary and Edmonton Railway Company and from the Manitoba and North-western Railway Company. It is as complete as anything of the kind could possibly be and on it are coloured in green the townships which are largely settled and in red those which are scattered. It has been brought up to date. When I say that I mean up to the first of the year, and I desire to point out to members of the House that I cannot see any object to be gained by pursuing this inquiry beyond the 1st January to any later date because an election will have to take place within six months from the date of the creation of these provinces and any foreigner coming into the country after the 1st of January would have no vote. Even a man coming from one of the older provinces would not be in these new provinces long enough to vote. On that map it will be found there are 325 thickly settled townships south of 38, and 239 sparsely settled. North of 38 there are 248 thickly settled and 159 sparsely settled townships. What I desire to point out to the House is that all the figures I have given show that the distribution made by the legislative assembly on the 1st May, 1902, was absolutely fair, that the proportion was 9 to 6 and that if there has been any change since that date the change has been in favour of the south as the influx of population there has, of course, been greater. I will take these thickly settled townships and the scattered townships and try to determine where the bulk of the rural population is. That is a much more definite way of arriving at it than by any local improvement districts, I submit. If you take it that there are eight times the number of people in a thickly settled township as in a sparsely settled township your population will work out so as to show a rural population to be 105,504. While a calculation of that kind may result in certain local inaccuracies if you take it over the whole province you will find that it will equalize or balance. The result of it is, adding rural and urban population together, that there are, 102,834 people south of 38 and 69,021 north of 38. My right hon. friend the First Minister seems inclined to doubt this calculation, but I desire to be perfectly fair and to make myself clear, and perhaps I will be able to give him some more calculations which bear out the proportions I have arrived at and which he cannot doubt because they are returns from the government. The results therefore of the vote cast last fall of homestead entries, receipts at the land

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY.

offices and the increase in urban and rural population all go to show that the influx of population into that country has been to the south. All these figures prove that the distribution should be now 15 seats south to 10 north. I am going to trouble the House for a moment in giving some further figures to verify what I have said, and I submit that whatever investigation you may make will bring you to the same conclusion as that which I have arrived. But, before I proceed to discuss that let me take up the basis of calculation adopted by the government—the schools. They say that there are 130 more schools north. What does that prove? Twelve children can form a school. You will find schools more frequently in a country where the roads are bad. No person will contend for one minute that in the ridings to the north where they have a continuous agitation for better roads, they would have the same number of schools if their roads were of the class that they have in the riding of Calgary. It simply proves nothing. Then, take the post offices. I have not been able to get a post office established in my constituency. We had the same difficulty with the hon. minister of the Interior when he represented that riding. We would plead with him for a post office but we could not get it. I might mention one that we desire to have established at Carbon. We could not get it. I can point out post offices in that northern country where the revenue is \$60 and where it costs the government \$1,500 a year to provide for them. The people in the neighbourhood of Carbon petitioned the minister time after time and they could not get their post office. Eventually it was got by sending the wife of a member of parliament to the hon. Postmaster General and telling him that she had two sons north of the Rosebud river and she could not hear from them more than once every two weeks. The result was that the post office was granted. The only post office that has been established in the Calgary district has been one that was asked for by the hon. member for Strathcona (Mr. Talbot). I have asked for several myself; one of them I might mention at Strathmore. But, the postmistress at a neighbouring post office who is running a store discouraged any attempt on the part of any person to take trade away from her store, and this was the sort of evidence that the government adopted in coming to a conclusion in regard to the request for a post office at Strathmore. I submit that places might be pointed out in the northern part of the country where there are post offices and where there is not as much need of post offices as there is at Strathmore. Therefore, I ask: What does the number of post offices prove? Then, they have told us that they have taken into consideration the local improvement districts. What does that prove? It is simply optional with the people whether they