

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY. I have not the figures here but if you desire the calculation in that way I will make it and give it to you before the committee rises.

Mr. OLIVER. Does the hon. gentleman know the area of the country within which this list was given? Is that the number of votes within the corporate limits of Calgary?

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY. There are three polls, numbers, 13, 7 and 1, and if the hon. gentleman desires to know I have gone through the list and picked out the names of those who reside in Calgary from those three polls and on the vote I have checked off the names with the scrutineer's book.

Mr. OLIVER. Would that be as correct as the hon. gentleman's statement in regard to Red Deer?

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY. It would be as correct as most of the statements which the hon. gentleman makes in this House. I differ with him, possibly I may err. I have not a band of officials behind me to work out the figures for me, but if a misstatement of mine is ever pointed out in this House I shall always be glad to correct it.

Mr. OLIVER. I am pointing out that the figures the hon. gentleman has given as the list for Calgary include a great deal of country outside the city of Calgary.

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY. But a man does not have to vote in the polling division where he resides, and if the vote polled in Edmonton is compared with that of Calgary it will be found that as many polled their votes in Edmonton who live outside that city as in Calgary.

Mr. OLIVER. I do not know what was done in that way in Calgary, but I say that was not done to any appreciable extent in Edmonton because the country immediately surrounding Edmonton was divided into small polling subdivisions so that it would be convenient for the people to vote at their own polling subdivisions and they did so.

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY. On this matter of correctness let me tell the hon. gentleman that it does not lie in his mouth to charge us with misstatements. In placing figures before the House I gave the vote polled, the number on the list of every subdivision and I offered to hand over any constituency poll by poll and ask the minister to point out wherein we were wrong or else to admit we were right. But when we asked a return from the Minister of the Interior of the vote polled and the votes on the list in the four ridings in Alberta, and were furnished with a return showing 1,500 less names on the list in Alberta than there actually were, I would ask the minister if he can show any such error as that in any figures I have cited. If he can do so, I will not detain him any longer in discussion?

Mr. OLIVER. I was simply calling attention to the fact that when the member said there were so many voters on the list in Calgary he was including votes not in Calgary and he has already said there were three polls in that list not in Calgary.

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY. I did not say anything of the sort; I said a number of the names in these polls were not on the list. I went through the list and picked out the names of those who did reside in the subdivisions. But that is not all the minister said; he went further and charged me with having some figures which I submitted in this House incorrect.

Mr. OLIVER. Surely, do you deny it?

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY. An error was found in Red Deer, but it was not one-hundredth part the error found in the figures submitted of the vote in the north and south. If the hon. gentleman contends for a moment that the city of Calgary is not the commercial centre of that country perhaps figures can be given which may be startling. What I said to him at the outset was that in the city of Calgary to-day we have a line of railway running east and west and another north and south. Edmonton is actually at the very end of railway construction. If he takes a point halfway between the two stations it will be there seen that there are 990 odd miles of railway south and only 150 north. Therefore, I ask, is there any question as to which is the most accessible place to-day? I have pointed out—and I do not think he will contradict it—that when these new proposed lines of railway are built just as good country as he has in the north will be opened in the southern part of the province. Let us look at some of the returns from the two cities:

| Item. | Calgary. | Edmonton. |
|----------------------------|----------|-----------|
| Postal revenue year ending | | |
| June 30, 1904.. . . . | 28,638 | 13,104 |
| Customs.. . . . | 414,466 | *185,317 |
| Inland Revenue.. . . . | 100,410 | *29,164 |

* Including Strathcona.

The hon. member does not need to take my figures as the latter two items are returns to an order of this House. Therefore I say that there is not the slightest doubt as to where the centre of population is as I can prove from the map of the Department of the Interior showing the rural population. I have given the figures of the population of the two cities and there is not the slightest doubt as to where the centre of railway construction is to-day or as to which is the most accessible place. We must again trouble the Minister of the Interior to show why the capital, the seat of government has been taken away from the centre of population and trade and the most accessible point. If you look up the constituencies of the local House you will find that eight of the members would have to pass through Calgary to get to Edmonton, one other lives much closer