

cast or not. But the right hon. gentleman said that there were on the voters' lists in these eleven proposed constituencies south of Red Deer 15,895 and in the eleven north 12,863—a mere difference of 3,032. But if the average of each constituency on the lists is 1,200, which I understand it to be practically, there are two constituencies and a-half given to the north, even taking the figures of the First Minister, more than to the south. Therefore, the north is apparently getting an advantage which I for one would like to see somewhat rectified. In these figures Athabaska has been left out again. The right hon. gentleman says that in the north there are 12,863 votes on the lists for eleven constituencies—but they are to have thirteen constituencies. It does not seem fair to discuss this matter with regard to the old province of Alberta and leave out the proposed new constituencies which have so few people in them entitled to vote.

I propose to say a few words with regard to Athabaska. In the first place, the suggestion of some hon. members on this side that Athabaska should be added to another constituency has been taken up wrongly by hon. gentlemen opposite. There has been no suggestion on this side that these people in Athabaska should have no representation. We have gone beyond the time when we think people should be deprived of representation if that can possibly be avoided. But what hon. members on this side do say is that Athabaska should not have two constituencies given it for comparatively few voters and the constituencies on the south be deprived of their rights. By being added to another constituency the people of Athabaska would have their representation, but they would only have what is due them and not the extraordinary representation proposed by this Bill.

Now, in reference to Athabaska, first of all, I want to read the words uttered by the right hon. Prime Minister yesterday. In speaking of this subject he said:

I admit at once that the suggestion that would at once occur to any man's mind under some circumstances would be to join such districts to existing districts.

Of course, that is the very first thing that any one would think of. Then he goes on to tell about the size of the country and how impossible it would be for anybody to visit the whole of this country in election time. I would like very much if I could get an answer from every hon. member in this House as to whether he visited every part of his constituency at the last election or not. I would like to know what percentage of the country members of parliament were able to visit the whole of their constituencies during the last election. In certain constituencies they can do it, but there are many constituencies in both Ontario and Quebec, to say nothing of British Columbia, where it is impossible to visit the whole of them. The constituency

Mr. PERLEY.

which I have the honour to represent is one of the smaller constituencies of Quebec, and still I was not in all parts of the constituency during the last election simply because there was no time to cover the whole ground. I have here a small map of the province of Québec showing the counties of Montcalm, Joliette, Berthier, Maskinongé and St. Maurice. These counties extend from the St. Lawrence to the original boundary of the province of Quebec. The people who live at the back end of these counties are never visited in election time. Probably a member would never, during the whole of his life, be able to visit these people and still can anybody say that these people have no representation? I submit that Athabaska is exactly in the same position and that the constituencies should be carved out giving representation to the north and giving representation to these people but that they should not have any more voting power per man than any other voter in the proposed province. Further than that there is a stronger case in Quebec than this one I have cited. When the northern boundary of the province was changed a few years ago no representation whatever was given to the part taken in north of the original boundary. It has no representation now. It has no recognized constituencies and it is administered as an annex of certain of the old constituencies. These people in Athabaska have got along for many years without any representation at all, and it seems rather strange that there should be such solicitude at the present moment that they should be represented are very much overrepresented. It seems to me that if they are given proper representation by population now, they will be very well satisfied, and that is all they can possibly expect. The hon. Minister of the Interior (Mr. Oliver) spoke in a slighting way yesterday in regard to the large business and wealth of the people in Southern Alberta. He says that money does not have votes, that it is the people who have votes. Well, that is what we want them to have. We want the people to get votes, one vote for one man and no more, but if the government give to the unoccupied part of Athabaska two constituencies to elect members it seems to me that the minister will have to register a lot of white fish and spruce trees up there to get the proper number of voters for these constituencies. The hon. minister has made a strong plea for the representation of the northern part of this new province on account of its great future. We will grant that it is going to have a great future. I do not think it was necessary for the hon. minister to set forth this argument about the future of the country because I do not think any one will say it is not going to be a great country. We all hope and expect it will and we will all be very much disappointed if we are mistaken. But, I submit that the future of