

surely the proper thing for us to do with these infant children of ours is to give each voter in them the same voting power. If you have 30,000 voters and 25 seats, give every one of the constituencies 1,200 votes as nearly as possible. These people in the north should not get any more representation than the others, so far as we are concerned. That is a local matter. In settling their local affairs, whether the people of the province put their capital at Calgary or at Edmonton, I do not care; but I think that one man should have as much right to say where the capital should be as another man, and I do not think the half-breed in the northern country should have ten, twelve or eighteen times as much to say as a man in Edmonton or Calgary. Now, I have endeavoured to go into this matter as fairly as I know how. I know nothing about the country except from reading; I know nothing about the local disputes, except that I understand that they are largely about the location of the capital; and surely we do not care sufficiently where the capital is put to stultify ourselves by giving the people in a certain part of the province a pull over the others. It seems to me that the only fair and proper way for us to do is to give to every man who has a right to vote in that new province as nearly as possible the same powers as any other man in them, whether he is in Athabaska or Calgary, in the north or in the south.

If there is a dispute as to the capital in the province let them fight it out themselves. Why should a half-breed in Athabaska have ten or twenty times as much to say about the settlement of this first question in the new province as a good white man in Edmonton or Calgary? If there are 25 seats and 30,000 voters then as nearly as possible every constituency should have 1,200 votes, and it is unfair to compare the 11 constituencies north of Red Deer and the 11 south, overlooking the two constituencies away in the north with practically no voters. If this were a business matter, a dispute between business men, we would get together and agree on it; even among bitter enemies in business an agreement would be reached. It is a local matter of which we should get rid. I therefore appeal to the Prime Minister for fair-play to all the people in the proposed new province of Alberta, I submit that the schedules should be so altered, if the government cannot agree to the amendment of the hon. member for Calgary (Mr. M. S. McCarthy), that no voter should be at an undue disadvantage or think he was prejudiced in his rights in this first subject for consideration in the new legislature.

Mr. PETER TALBOT. As one of the representatives from the proposed new province of Alberta, and as I have studied this question to a great extent since it was decided to place the boundaries of the proposed

province, I wish to give my views to the committee. When a portion of the territory of Athabaska was added to the old district of Alberta, forming the proposed new province of Alberta, we all became very much interested, or at least I did, in learning as much as could be learned about the southern portion of the whole of that portion of Athabaska. By reference to the map you will see that the portion of Athabaska added to this province is about 350 miles from east to west and somewhat more than that from north to south. The southeast portion of it you will notice is drained by the Athabaska river and the southwestern portion by the Peace River. As a resident of the Northwest Territories for a number of years I know that those two portions of that territory have been attracting a good deal of attention. I know that large numbers of people are going up to the valley of the Athabaska river and that still greater numbers are going to the valley of the Peace River. They are attracted there by the encouraging reports of people who have been there for years. I endeavoured to get all the information I could relative to those two portions of Athabaska, and I have some information that perhaps has not yet been given to the committee. The valley of the Athabaska, that is the proposed district of Athabaska in this new province, I found, after making careful inquiry and getting information from various sources has at present twenty-four stores, thirteen churches, eight schools, four sawmills, three shingle mills, two planing mills, one flour mill, seven steamboats, and three Royal Northwest Mounted Police Posts. Those of us who live in the Northwest know that that country has been attracting a great deal of attention and there is an immense trade between Edmonton and the Athabaska valley or the proposed district of Athabaska. Any district in the new province in which so much money and energy are expended is certainly entitled to a representative. The Peace River district I found in even a more flourishing condition. I found there eighteen stores, ten churches, six schools, four sawmills, five shingle mills, three planing mills, five flour mills (one of which is a fifty barrel roller mill and four of them stone mills), three steamboats, one Royal Northwest Mounted Police Post and three steam threshers. It is well known that what is called the Grande Prairie, a portion of the Peace River valley is one of the most productive and fertile districts in the west. I maintain that that district also is entitled to one representative in the new legislature. In addition to that I found there was a considerable amount of money invested by traders in that country. The Hudson Bay Company alone have invested over \$350,000; Braden & Cornwall have invested \$150,000; there is another outfit with \$25,000, another with \$50,000 and six others with \$5,000 each, making a total of over \$600,000 invested in trading in that country at the present time. After coming to the conclusion that that