

the information asked for yesterday from the Prime Minister with regard to schools. He had told us that the number of schools in this district, and I asked him to state the attendance at those schools, distinguishing if possible between white, half-breed and the Indian pupils. It may not be possible to get that information, but I think if the attempt had been made in time it could have been procured. Some other sources of information may be discovered between now and Monday. That information is important, as enabling us to come to a conclusion as to the population in that northern country. Those are all the items I think of at the moment. If anything should occur to me between now and an early hour in the morning, and I gave the hon. gentleman a reasonable time to prepare it, I trust he will permit me to communicate it to him so that we may have the information on Monday.

Mr. OLIVER. I am afraid it is not possible to get information as to the respective number of white, half-breed and Indian pupils in the schools, because they are conducted on an entirely different basis from the schools in the organized Territories. But if it is possible to make the distinction and get the figures, we will do so.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. If we could get the total number of pupils, would it be fair to adopt the proportions of the whole population?

Mr. OLIVER. I am inclined to think it would be. But that is only a guess.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. It might afford a basis for estimate at least?

Mr. OLIVER. Yes.

Mr. LAKE. Are the schools in that district other than those that get the government grants?

Mr. OLIVER. This being an unorganized territory, there is no authority exercised over any schools except those for which money is paid. But I believe there are others.

Mr. LAKE. Would the minister get from the Census Department the best figures they have of the population of Athabaska showing where it is as between the east and west?

Mr. OLIVER. I have already furnished the fullest information I could get from the Census Bureau in regard to the Alberta part of Athabaska. I understand the hon. members to ask now for the Saskatchewan part of Athabaska.

Mr. LAKE. Yes.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. And might I suggest that to save time the same information might be prepared with regard to the constituencies in Saskatchewan which we will have to consider shortly.

Mr. OLIVER. If I put both provinces in hand at once I fear it will cause delay.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I mean that the minister should get ready for it.

Mr. OLIVER. I will do so.

Mr. INGRAM. I understand the hon. gentleman (Mr. Oliver) is to supply figures showing the population of cities and towns. But there are incorporated villages also. Will they be given?

Mr. OLIVER. The understanding with the leader of the opposition is that cities and towns will be counted as urban population, while the villages will be counted with the rural population.

Mr. W. WRIGHT. I pointed out some time ago that the census figures showing the population of Edmonton and Calgary extended into the country for miles and not for the cities alone.

Mr. OLIVER. I can only give the information I get from the census bureau, and I took it for granted that when the census shows the population of the towns of Edmonton and Calgary it means for those towns and not for the surrounding country. If a part of the surrounding country is taken in it is a very limited area.

Mr. W. WRIGHT. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Oliver) is mistaken.

Mr. OLIVER. What is the area?

Mr. W. WRIGHT. I will look it up.

Mr. INGRAM. While the hon. gentleman (Mr. W. Wright) is looking that up, I would like to urge the point to which I have just called attention. For instance take Pincher Creek. In 1901, according to the census it had a population of 837. But we are told that since then it has very considerably increased. It seems to me it would be fairer to include incorporated villages over say 500.

Mr. OLIVER. I am quite willing to take in all incorporated villages as town population. But, as between the leader of the opposition (Mr. R. L. Borden) and myself, it was agreed the other way. Because, with us, when a place grows to any size at all, it is called a town, and sports a mayor and council and all the trimmings.

Mr. W. WRIGHT. I will point out that according to the census report Calgary and Edmonton include a large portion of territory outside the towns proper. Calgary West, for instance, 63,000 acres.

Mr. OLIVER. That is the electoral district of Calgary.

Mr. W. WRIGHT. There are no other figures in the census report except what I have stated.

Mr. OLIVER. Then, I am afraid I shall be unable to give the figures called for. I can only give the best I can get.