

age we find that with the distribution proposed, the vote of the new-comer shall be equivalent in value to the votes of two of the older settlers in that country. That is the general effect of the proposed distribution. We desire that the principle of representation according to population should be adhered to, and this distribution does not adhere to it. In the old legislative assembly, in so far as concerns the present proposed province of Saskatchewan, there were two distinct legal divisions, there was the provisional district of Saskatchewan in the north and that of Assiniboia in the south. Those two divisions have been recognized in all distributions of representation from the beginning up to the present time and we find that to a certain extent they have been recognized in the schedules which have been placed before us. All the seats with the exception of three are completely in either the northern district or the southern district. In three cases the seats, while properly belonging to the north, have been run into the south and take in a considerable slice of the southern districts. I intend to show that it is proposed to give a far larger representation to the northern parts of the province than it is entitled to, and a far smaller share of representation to the southern part of the province than it is entitled to. For that purpose I will take the old division as between the provisional district of Saskatchewan, which I shall call the northern portion, and of Assiniboia, which I shall call the southern portion. This Bill, roughly speaking, gives nine seats to the north and sixteen seats to the south. The original schedules which were laid before the House gave ten seats to the north and fifteen to the south. I did not catch what the right hon. Prime Minister moved when these schedules were brought up, but I understand he moved the amended schedules as laid on the table of the House a few days ago:

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I moved the original schedule, not the amended schedule, but of course, my hon. friend (Mr. Lake) has notice of the amendment which it is proposed to introduce and which modifies to some extent his argument.

Mr. LAKE. May I ask the right hon. Prime Minister if it is his intention to move the amended schedule?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Yes.

Mr. LAKE. I think, therefore, that I might as well base my argument on the amended schedule.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Hear, hear.

Mr. LAKE. The original schedule, of course, shows far more in favour of the argument which I propose to make than the amended schedule, but if, as I understand the right hon. Prime Minister, he intends to move the amended schedule then I suppose

it would be more satisfactory to this committee if I based my argument on the amended schedule. Since the Bill was introduced we find that an amendment has already been made to the original schedule as brought in. I am very glad to find that the amendment has been made. It has made things slightly better, but this distribution is still about as bad, in my opinion, as it is possible for any distribution of seats to be. Now, in dealing with the question of Prince Albert the government laid down certain principles which they said would govern them and which did govern them in the distribution of seats. At page 8000 of 'Hansard' it is stated by the right hon. Prime Minister that:

The prime object—

Of the distribution—

—was as far as possible to give equality of numbers in the different electoral districts.

Mr. FOSTER. How equality of numbers?

The PRIME MINISTER. Taking the unit of population.

On the following page he used this language:

That was the first consideration, at all events—the existing representation. The next was the geographical distribution of the population. These are the three principles which we have in mind and I do not think it possible to have any other guides.

Later he went on to elaborate this a little farther. At page 8100 of 'Hansard' he said:

I stated yesterday at the opening of the discussion that we took as the basis of the distribution which we made, the condition of things existing at the present time, the number of seats assigned to the province of Alberta in the present legislature of the Territory, which amounts to 16. First of all we had to increase that by 10, we had to give to Alberta 10 more seats than there are to-day in the legislature of the Northwest Territories within the limits of Alberta. How are we to come to that conclusion? We come to that conclusion upon information derived from three sources which we submit to the House to be challenged. We take first the number of votes recorded. We do not say to the House that this is the only thing we should take into consideration; we say that is one thing which ought to be taken into consideration but not alone. We take next the number of votes registered; we do not say that is the only thing to be taken, that is only one of many things on which we should form our judgment. Then we take the census of 1901. That is the best thing of all. If we had a census for 1905 we would not have to consider the number of recorded votes nor the number of registered votes, nor the number of post offices, school districts or improvement districts; we would take only the census for 1905. But we have no census of 1905 and therefore we have to make up our minds as to what is the actual population at the present time. We know that the population at the present time is double what it was in 1901, and we have to make our calculation accordingly. But though the population