

plan—because the greater part applies to Assiniboia—is perfection, too. I would ask the committee, fairly looking at the subject, looking at the maps and at the facts before it, if it is not fair to give the north country three of these five additional seats and the south country two of these seats? The fact is admitted by the committee that we cannot afford to go on the census of 1901, that the changes since that time have been too great, and I say it is not fair to go exactly upon the vote of last fall, because there were in some parts of the country large blocks of men who, although already in the country, had not been there long enough to enable them to be naturalized, and were therefore not permitted to vote. We must go to some extent upon estimate, and the best estimate that can be made in regard to that part of the country will be somewhat speculative. I would not take the responsibility of saying that the government plan will work out absolutely fairly. If we may be permitted in two, or three, or four years hence to get the actual population within these lines, it may be found in some surprising ways that the plan the government asks the House to adopt at the present moment is not an absolutely fair plan. I would not say that if we had given Saskatchewan four of these additional members, as was proposed in the first government plan, that would be found in the end to work out unfairly, or if we turned the proposition around and gave the three additions to the south and only two to the north, it might be that in two or three years hence that would be found to be a perfectly fair distribution. It must be remembered that we are providing for the next four years. It must be expected that the first legislature of the province of Saskatchewan will live out its life of four years, and keeping in mind the trend of immigration as we have had it in the past, as we have it at the present time, and as we may expect to have it, and remembering the new railway construction in the northern part of the country, I may say, as a southern man, as a man who lives in and represents a southern constituency, that I am prepared to agree to the giving of nine of the seats under this redistribution to the north as against sixteen to the south. The point of difference between hon. members opposite and hon. members on this side of the House has come down to whether three of the additional seats should go to the north country or whether only two of them should go to the north country, and it may not be uninteresting for the committee to look at the history of the Northwest Territories in so far as representation is concerned. Some of these figures that I am going to give to the committee I would call the particular attention of the hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. R. L. Borden) to. He may finally come to the conclusion that there has been in past years in this country worse things

done than ever were done in the United States in regard to gerrymanders. The first plan for representation in the Northwest Territories was based purely and entirely upon population. That was for the election of members to the old Northwest Council prior to the creation of the legislature. It was provided in the original Northwest Territories Act that as soon as any area of 1,000 square miles had 1,000 population it should be made a constituency and elect a member. Under that plan I find upon looking at the records that in the year 1885 Assiniboia had eight members in the Northwest Council, Alberta had four and Saskatchewan had only one. In 1887 I find that Assiniboia had eight members, Alberta five and Saskatchewan one. The population of Saskatchewan only entitled it to one member in the Northwest Council. In 1888 this parliament created the first legislative assembly in the Northwest Territories. A Conservative government was in power then, and, strange to say, they made a redistribution for that legislature. They did not refer the matter to the courts. That redistribution was made on this floor. Twenty-two elected members were provided for the legislature, and of these eleven were given to Assiniboia, six to Alberta and no less than five to Saskatchewan. What was the population? The previous census showed that Assiniboia had 16,408, Alberta 4,871 and Saskatchewan 1,792, exclusive of Indians. Those 1,792 people were given five members as against only six members for the 4,871 people in Alberta and the eleven members for the 16,408 in Assiniboia. Surely a terrible outrage was committed there. But nobody seemed to think it. Nobody said anything about it. Saskatchewan, in 1888, was given five members in a house of twenty-two members on a census population of 1,792, or an average unit of 358 souls for each seat; Alberta was given six members on a population of 4,871, an average of 812 per seat, or more than 100 per cent difference; while Assiniboia, with eleven members, had a population of 16,408, with a unit of roundly 1,500 as against a little more than 300 for Saskatchewan. On previous days we have been asked to point to a parallel case of this parliament providing a redistribution for a new provincial legislature. Here is a parallel case. This parliament did exactly what we are doing now in 1888 when creating the first legislature.

Mr. LAKE. In what year was the census taken?

Mr. SCOTT. Probably in the year 1885. I may say that I have gleaned these figures from discussions out of 'Hansard.' That was a real and terrible outrage, and doubtless the first thing the assembly did when they got an opportunity was to remedy this outrage. Five members given to that popu-