

to the committee the reason for that necessity as I have consulted with the hon. member for Alberta (Mr. Herron) on the subject. This is a mere change in detail which we think will be more satisfactory to the people of both electoral districts. By the change proposed the north boundary of Pincher would be the north line of township 11. Starting at the summit of the Rocky Mountains and running due east on the north line of township 11 to the 5th meridian, then south 6 miles on the 5th meridian, then east to the east line of township 29, then south 12 miles, instead of 6 miles as shown on the map, then east 6 miles to the west line of range 28, then south, as shown on the map, to the southwest corner of the Piegan reserve, then running easterly along the south boundary of the Piegan reserve to the line between ranges 26 and 27, then south to the Belly river and follow the Belly river to the Cardston boundary, then follow the Cardston boundary to the Rocky Mountains, then follow the summit of the Rocky Mountains to the place of beginning. The changes, while they will make some considerable changes in area, will make very little change in the population and we believe this will be more satisfactory to the people affected. We have received letters from the people there asking for some of these changes.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Does it take away from or add to the area of Pincher?

Mr. OLIVER. It takes somewhat away.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. How much?

Mr. OLIVER. It takes away 15 blocks from Pincher and adds them to Macleod. In one place it takes one township from Pincher, in another it adds a township to Macleod and in another it takes a township and two fractions of a township from Macleod and adds to Pincher.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. It recasts the boundary line taking from each and adding to each?

Mr. OLIVER. Yes, just merely to observe the community of interest.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Is the net result about this, as far as the area is concerned, that it takes away from Pincher and adds to Macleod?

Mr. OLIVER. It takes away 16 townships from Pincher and takes away about 2 townships from Macleod, a net loss to Pincher of about 14 townships.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. That is about 320 square miles.

Mr. HERRON. Before that passes I would like to have the word 'creek' added to the name.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. We have not come to that yet.

Mr. OLIVER.

Mr. INGRAM. Are we to understand that while we can have the area the government is not in a position to give us the estimated population in each electoral district?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I understand there is very little population in those districts.

Mr. INGRAM. Surely we are entitled to have some estimate of the population in those electoral districts. On what did the government base this delimitation? Simple area?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I understand that one of the reasons given is to take the area of the land which is drained by a certain river or creek.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. The right hon. gentleman does not quite understand the inquiry of my hon. friend (Mr. Ingram), which I also made myself a while ago. The right hon. gentleman was asked whether he could not, as we go along, give for each constituency an estimate of the actual population at the present time. That is what I had asked for Friday night, and have not yet received.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I am afraid it is difficult to make an estimate of the present population. There has been no census for the last four years. The only data we have are the reports of the immigration department and the homestead entries, and these latter we have not got made up to the present time. I do not know that the government has any information of the actual number of settlers in each of these districts.

Mr. INGRAM. Then that portion of section 12 which says 'having due regard to the distribution of population and existing local divisions' is altogether a farce, because there is none furnished.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. We have furnished the population such as we have it in the records of the government. We have no record of what the population is at this date. We have given last week the population of each of these ridings by the census of 1901, and in addition we have given the recorded vote, the registered vote, the school districts, and the improvement districts. That is all we have.

Mr. INGRAM. I would like to see some of that information. Surely the minister handling this Bill can give us the area and the estimated population, he must have it under his hand.

Mr. OLIVER. I hope the hon. member will not be absurd. We have given everything we have. We have given the returns by the census of 1901; we cannot give him a new census unless we get the authorization of parliament to make one.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. In this particular case of Macleod, there are 2,628 square miles.