

tion. That was all his objection. He went on to say he had no objection to a certain change which was made in his constituency. And I think there was only one division taken on the whole of that question, and that was as to whether there should be 35 or 36 members. I am not sure on this point. If there was a division at all, it was lost. I only find the record of one amendment being proposed, and I do not see whether it was pressed to a division or not. Therefore, it cannot possibly be said that there was any unfair redistribution by the legislative assembly in 1902. Not one of these members who, the hon. member for Strathcona (Mr. P. Talbot) says, were so badly treated in the northern part of Alberta, raised any protest against the redistribution. We, therefore, can take it as absolutely the fact that it was a fair one, and I think it will be found to compare very favourably indeed with the redistribution we are now discussing, in which, instead of a margin of only something like 4 per cent between one district and another, we find a margin of from 10 to 100 per cent. I am very glad that the principle has been laid down that the figures of last election are the basis for the distribution of seats. These lists, upon which that election took place, were drawn up last fall, and the election took place in November. There may be considerable difference of opinion as to whether we should take the votes actually cast or those which appear on the lists. For my part, I would take the ones placed on the lists, which lists were drawn up by men employed by the present government, who certainly would not be unfair towards the members of their own party. I think most strongly that the votes on the lists should be the basis upon which this distribution should be made.

However, if the government wishes, let us take the basis of the votes cast just for the purpose of argument. As far as the province of Saskatchewan is concerned, I am perfectly willing to accept that basis. Probably my hon. friends on this side would be willing to accept even that basis also so long as it is strictly adhered to. But I find that in the case of the province of Saskatchewan, the votes cast at last election are not followed to any degree whatever. Let me point to this as an illustration. The new province of Saskatchewan can easily be divided up between north and south. There are three Dominion constituencies in the north and three in the south. We have the absolute number of votes polled in all these constituencies so that we can get down to an absolute basis of fact. In the three northern constituencies, there were 7,824 votes polled. Add the number from the districts of Strathcona and Edmonton, and you would possibly have 150 votes more. In the three southern Dominion constituencies there were 17,771 votes polled.

Now, we find that the actual distribution we are discussing gives to the north eight members and the south ten members, and that there are seven local constituencies which are divided up, and I think that hon. gentlemen opposite will be perfectly willing to admit that those constituencies can be divided equally between the north and the south. We find that to the 7,824 votes cast in the north they give 11½ seats, whilst to the 17,741 votes cast in the south they only give 13½ seats. It will also be found, taking the votes actually cast, when you come to the province of Saskatchewan, that it takes 100 per cent more votes to elect a member in the southern part of the province than in the northern part.

Mr. LAMONT. When my hon. friend speaks of north and south, I presume he is following the same dividing line as that which was followed in Alberta—township 38.

Mr. LAKE. No; I have already said that I am not following the same dividing line. I am taking the three northern constituencies, about which there will be no question whatever, and in regard to which the right hon. Prime Minister himself brought down the votes cast in the last election. I will give some figures on another occasion in regard to Saskatchewan, in which I will give one of the degrees of latitude as the division. But in the three northern Dominion constituencies they are only giving half the number of voters to each local constituency that they are in the three southern Dominion constituencies.

Mr. HAGGART. That is in the new province of Saskatchewan?

Mr. LAKE. That is in the new province of Saskatchewan. It becomes even more apparent if we take the figures which the right hon. Prime Minister laid so much stress upon to-day—the figures of the census of 1901. He used these figures as an argument in support of the distribution in the province of Alberta. If you will take these figures and apply them to the old provisional districts of Assiniboia and Saskatchewan, you will find that the population of Assiniboia amounted to 67,385 in the year 1901. You can deduct, say about 3,000 for the portion of Medicine Hat which would be included in the census. The population of Saskatchewan was only 25,679 in the census and a portion of the territory has been thrown into unorganized territory under the present administration. So that, taking that basis upon which the Prime Minister insisted so much this afternoon, there should be two and a half times the representation given to Assiniboia as to the province of Saskatchewan; that is to say, there should be eighteen seats in the old provisional district of Assiniboia and seven in the old provisional district of Saskatchewan; whereas, as a matter of fact, in the