

trict, the hon. gentleman withdrew his motion, I presume, because he could not get his friends on the other side of the House to support it. I think they showed a very considerable degree of wisdom in securing the withdrawal of the hon. gentleman's motion. If they agreed then, as they did agree, to the inclusion of the district of Athabaska in the new province of Alberta, they must face the question squarely whether they are going to give that district representation or not. This is not a judicial question. They may call it a partisan question, but it is a political question, using the word in its highest sense, a question of policy on the part of this parliament and we must make a decision and be responsible for that decision. My hon. friend has spoken of principle. Does he take the ground before this House and before the country that this country containing more than half the total area of the new province shall not have representation in the new parliament? If he does we take issue with him on that point and we say that taxation shall have representation, that when we include the district of Athabaska in the province of Alberta that district shall be subject to all the responsibilities of provincial government and that it is entitled to all the advantages which will result from sharing and taking part in that government.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. May I ask the hon. gentleman a question?

Mr. OLIVER. Certainly.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. Why was the hon. gentleman not very solicitous to have that district represented in the Dominion parliament? I understand that at the present time these people are not represented in the Dominion parliament.

Mr. OLIVER. Well, I think my hon. friend should not be absurd. He knows that during the two parliaments I represented the district of Alberta, which is now represented in parliament by four members. I felt, for my part, speaking of the matter personally, that I had enough on my hands without urging the addition of other territory, but as the representative of the district of Alberta adjoining this district of Athabaska and living in a locality which was in close communication with that district, it was necessary for me to spend a considerable part of my time and energy in representing the interests of the people of that district as far as I could. I certainly was under a very great disadvantage by reason of the fact that I had no authority, and I think that the people of that district should be represented from this time forward. The fact that they have not been represented, I hope, will not be urged as a reason why they shall not be represented in the future.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. No. The hon. minister took part in the enactment of certain legislation a few years ago. I do not know that he was so solicitous at that time that taxation should carry with it representation or that these people should have their rights asserted as he is now.

Mr. OLIVER. That is quite another question. The district of Athabaska was not included in the organized portions of the Territories?

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. Why not?

Mr. OLIVER. Because the time had not come. It is going to be included now. The Northwest government had never asked to have it included and there was no particular reason why I should at that particular time urge its inclusion.

Mr. M. S. MCCARTHY. Had not the legislative assembly at Regina the administration of affairs in Athabaska?

Mr. OLIVER. They had a certain right of administration, but they had not control over the district of Athabaska as they had over the organized Territories. They had a right of administration such as the government of Manitoba has over the district of Keewatin, but the district of Athabaska was not part of the territory over which they exercised full control and they did not ask to have it added to their territory. Probably the time had not arrived when it should be added to the territory. But an idea that hon. gentlemen opposite do not seem to be able to grasp is that there has been progress in the district of Athabaska as there has been in other parts of the Territories, that these conditions require to be met and that this legislation is for the purpose of meeting the conditions as they exist and as they are in immediate prospect. The fact that the district of Athabaska is not a part of the organized Territories and did not receive representation in the Dominion parliament is no more a cause of complaint against this government, than it is a cause of complaint against the Creator of the universe that the world had to be created at a certain period of time.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. That's pretty good.

Mr. OLIVER. That ought to settle the question. The representation of the district of Athabaska in the new provincial legislature is a question of policy, and that question of policy is: Shall a district which contains population, which contributes largely to the trade of the country, which is on the eve of being opened up to the fullest extent; shall this parliament take the responsibility of including that district in the new province and not provide it with adequate representation? If gentlemen on the other side take that position, I can assure them that we on this side take issue with them.