

take another calculation: let us take up the calculation of the number of names on the lists. I think that is admitted to be the most obviously fair method of making a division; it has been so considered in New Zealand, it has been so considered in New South Wales, it has been so considered in the Transvaal, it has been so considered in the territories of the American union. I never heard before, and I do not think any member of this House ever heard before, of an estimate based on the number of votes cast, because it can be easily seen that the number will vary greatly on account of circumstances peculiar to each constituency. We find altogether that there were about 30,000 names on the voters' lists and the quota is 1,222. Therefore the country should be so divided that each constituency would contain 1,222 names upon its voters' lists. We find that the ten southern constituencies have 14,242 names on their lists, but the 14 northern constituencies—taking it for granted that Peace River and Athabaska by a superhuman effort might produce 300 each—have 15,040 names on their voters' lists. In other words the quota being 1,222 the average of each constituency in the south is 1,424 and the average in the north is 1,074. Might I ask, why it requires 350 more names on the list of a southern constituency to have a representative, than it does in a northern constituency.

Mr. HENDERSON. Because it is not imaginary.

Mr. SPOULE. Because they want to keep the capital in the north.

Mr. AMES. This afternoon figures were brought down by the Prime Minister which did not exactly tally with ours but which were not essentially different. I have taken the government figures in order to make a calculation and I find that in the south we have 10 constituencies with a total of 14,657 voters or an average in each constituency of 1,465, while we have in the 13 northern constituencies 15,271 voters or an average in each constituency of 1,174. The quota is 1,300. Why does it require 1,465 voters in the south for one member while 1,174 is sufficient in the north? We on this side of the House found it necessary to make our own calculation, and we found it necessary for two reasons. First, because we desired to become familiar with the facts ourselves, and secondly because we felt there could not be all the possible confidence in the world placed upon the figures as given by the government. Now let me show you an instance which confirms our suspicions. On the 14th of June, I asked in the House, how many names of qualified voters appeared on each of the lists used November 3, 1904, for the electoral districts of Alberta, Calgary, Strathcona and Edmonton, and the Prime Minister replied: that in Alberta,

there were 3,473. It was a little difficult to credit that statement, because in that election Mr. Herron received 1,755 votes, Mr. McKenzie, 1,677, 41 were rejected and 39 spoiled, making the total number of votes cast in the election 3,512. And yet the Prime Minister says that there were only 3,473 names upon the list. If that is the way computations are made we find it necessary to make independent calculations.

We now come to the matter of the votes cast. I find that in the same ten southern constituencies 9,796 votes were cast or an average of 979, but that in the 12 northern constituencies 9,867 were polled or an average of 822. 895 is the mean for 23 constituencies. Why should it be necessary in the south to have 157 more electors than the mean when it is permitted to have 73 less than the mean in the north? The Minister of the Interior has attempted to defend this method of division by the number of votes cast. Of all the methods, that is the one which will come nearest to justifying his proposed schedule and for that reason I suppose it has been selected, but it is so obviously unfair to the south that I think it is advisable we should make this matter also patent to the House. You have only to look at some percentages to see the difference between the number of names on the list and the number of votes cast. For example, the High River constituency which is largely devoted to ranching only polled 63 per cent, and Macleod, another ranching constituency, 64 per cent of the names on the list. Stony Plain of which we have heard, managed to get in 78 per cent, and St. Albert succeeded in polling 77 per cent of its vote. There are some very peculiar features about this which make it still more apparent why this basis of calculation was used. In the northern part they not only voted the whole list but more. In Cracow, a name which shows that it is largely inhabited by Poles who helped to swell the hon. gentleman's majority, there were 113 names on the list and 100 cast. In Sallman, 19 were cast and there are 17 on the list. In Kensington 82 were cast and 52 on the list. In Wetaskiwin there were 282 cast and 266 on the list, in Rosenthal, 52 cast and 44 on the list; at Stony Plain Schoolhouse, 50 cast and 47 on the list; East Saskatchewan, 230 cast and 221 on the list. Poll 22, St. Albert cast 206 votes, although there were only 193 on the list. I can readily see under these circumstances why it should be deemed advisable for the minister to attempt to defend his schedule by considering the number of votes cast, but unfortunately the people of the south apparently had overlooked the fact that a distribution was coming. The minister has mentioned Cardston, which had a small vote in the south. If I understand, this is a Liberal constituency surrounded by several of another character, and there might be danger in the event of Cardston being enlarged that it would no