

after we asked for them, the hon. member for Marquette (Mr. W. J. Roche) asked for the number of voters in each local constituency and the number of votes polled, but notwithstanding that we have been waiting ever since for that information, it is only to-day that it is vouchsafed to the House. In its absence we have been obliged to make calculations for ourselves; these calculations we have made very carefully and they are very far apart from the figures given to the House by the First Minister. When the schedules were introduced in this House the leader of the opposition stated that he had been advised by his friends from the west that the schedules were manifestly unfair, and it now devolves upon the hon. gentleman from Alberta (Mr. Herron) and upon myself, to assume the responsibility of having made this statement to the member for Carleton (Mr. R. L. Borden). I hope to be able to show, before I take my seat, that there are a considerable number of people in Southern and Central Alberta who have characterized this schedule as being unfair. The Prime Minister says that certain constituencies have been left entirely as they were while others have been divided, and in the case of the constituencies which have been left as they were the kernel of the whole thing is that they all lie in the southern part of that province; not one constituency north of township 24 has been left as it was before, although they run up as high as township 60. That very fact should have been sufficient to put the First Minister on his guard, and to have caused him to suspect that there was some discrimination against the southern part of that country. The right hon. gentleman told us that Medicine Hat in the south had been left practically the same, but I desire to point out that at least 40 townships have been added to the old constituency of Medicine Hat. Notwithstanding that there is an additional representation in that province of 10 members, the constituency of Medicine Hat has been enlarged by at least 40 townships of 6 miles square, indicating that instead of there being any development in that section of the country it probably has gone backwards. The right hon. gentleman told us that Cardston has been left untouched; but is Cardston just the same to-day as it was when the Northwest assembly made it a constituency in 1902, or has there not been an influx of population into that constituency? We are told that Lethbridge has been left just as it was; has there been no development which required a change in Lethbridge? We are told that Macleod is divided in two, that High River is left practically the same, that Banff is added to, that Calgary is practically the same—the city of Calgary is given one representative, but it had two members in the old House, one for East Calgary and one for West Calgary. As I have said, I hope to be able to satisfy the Prime Minister that there are a considera-

able number of people in central and southern Alberta who are complaining bitterly of this division, and I can tell the right hon. gentleman further that those who complain include many of his own followers. I desire to refer now to an editorial which appeared in the Calgary 'Albertan,' a strong supporter of the First Minister and his administration, and a paper which has probably the largest circulation of any Liberal daily paper in the western province. I read this editorial because it sets out the objections very clearly. It says:

The announcement that the Dominion government had completed the schedule of constituencies for the province of Alberta and had decided upon thirteen seats north of Red Deer and twelve seats to the south is a bitter disappointment to the people of the south.

The division is unfair, and cannot be defended. But the division, unjust as it is, is not as serious a matter as the method adopted by the government to arrive at the division. If the question of dividing the province had been left to an independent non-political body or even to a parliamentary committee composed of members of parliament who were personally uninterested in the division made, the people of the south would not have been aroused by the decision, even if we had only received eleven members south of the Red Deer line. We would have been disappointed, but would have felt that though beaten we had been beaten fairly and that though at a disadvantage we did not have a grievance. The present division is unfair, and the method adopted to decide upon the division is little short of iniquitous.

Let us look at the division. The north boundary of the riding of Red Deer is some miles north of township 38 which is half-way between Edmonton and Calgary. At present we have below that line the territorial ridings of Medicine Hat, Lethbridge, Cardston, Macleod, High River, Banff, East Calgary, West Calgary, Innisfail and a portion of Lacombe. That means eight and a part of another. To the north we have Edmonton, Strathcona, Wetaskiwin, Victoria, St. Albert and part of Lacombe.

In other words the eight and a half ridings in the south are increased to twelve, and the five and a half in the north are increased to thirteen.

Besides this the population has been increasing more rapidly in the south than in the north since the present territorial divisions were created.

Let us take another example. In the Dominion House of Commons in the south district we have the ridings of Alberta, Calgary, a portion of West Assiniboia, and a very considerable portion of Strathcona. To the north we have Edmonton and the larger portion of Strathcona, and no more. Yet in the north we are to have thirteen ridings and in the south twelve ridings.

The vote in the south district at the last election was very much larger than the vote in the north country, yet the greater representation is to be in the north.

Let us take another injustice. The province of Alberta has a population of 250,000 people with a provincial representation of twenty-five, the unit of population being 10,000. Athabaska will have two representatives with a population of less than 5,000, and a white population of less than 1,000. That means that for legislative