

was useless to proceed with the proposition, and that our hon. friends on the other side were not willing to act with us in an endeavour to reach an amicable arrangement with regard to the local divisions.

Mr. LAKE. I think the hon. member for Calgary (Mr. M. S. McCarthy) has already definitely denied that statement before, it should not be repeated.

Mr. OLIVER. I think the dispute between my hon. friend from Calgary (Mr. M. S. McCarthy) and my hon. friend from Western Assiniboia (Mr. Scott) arose from something that I said yesterday. Therefore, it would hardly be fair for me to listen to the assertion and denial without saying my say on the subject. I do not know what was said to the hon. member for Alberta (Mr. Herron) or the hon. member for Calgary (Mr. M. S. McCarthy), but I have a distinct remembrance of being in room 48 with the hon. member for Calgary and the hon. member for Alberta, and also Premier Haultain and other gentlemen, senators and others. My remembrance is that the purpose we were there for, was as the hon. member for Western Assiniboia (Mr. Scott) has stated. As I remember it and as he had said, we did discuss, at great length, the question of boundary between the provinces, without making any progress in regard to that question. The further questions we were expected to discuss were not gone on with. But there was a conference, and there was a request for a joint discussion, at any rate, in regard to boundaries, and such a discussion, certainly took place as to the boundary between the provinces; and I am of opinion—though I am not so clear on that point as on the point of the discussion with regard to the boundary line—that there was also a discussion on the question of the number of representatives to be given to each province.

Mr. LAKE. I was not present at that meeting, as I have stated.

Mr. LAMONT. I was present, and I distinctly recollect hearing the hon. member for Western Assiniboia (Mr. Scott) making the motion he states he did make. It was not seconded and the matter dropped.

Mr. HERRON. The motion made by the hon. member for Western Assiniboia was that we should hold out together to get our land and minerals for the Northwest. I was at the meeting and remember the proposition made with reference to the division line between the two provinces. That was all that was discussed at the meeting. And I distinctly remember that the hon. member for Western Assiniboia said we should hold together and fight for our lands and minerals.

Mr. LAKE. I spoke to Mr. Haultain this morning and asked whether he was

present when the formal motion which the hon. member for Western Assiniboia has told us of was made. Mr. Haultain told me that no formal motion was made while he was present, if it were made—and no doubt it was; I accept the hon. member's (Mr. Scott's) statement—it was when no Conservatives were present. If I had been invited to a conference of this sort, I should have considered it my duty to accept. I was very anxious with regard to the distribution of seats in the new constituencies. But I felt that I had no right to assume that the government would not do justice to the people, and I did not know to whom it would be my duty to appeal to ask them to do justice; and, after all, that is all we look for.

Mr. SCOTT. Did I understand the hon. gentleman (Mr. Lake) to say that he asked Mr. Haultain a question this morning with regard to this matter?

Mr. LAKE. I asked Mr. Haultain whether he was present when the formal motion of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Scott) was made, and he stated distinctly that he was not present when that formal motion was made.

Mr. SCOTT. But he would not dispute the fact of the conference, or the fact that he called it for the purpose for which it was called. The best proof that the leader of the government (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) did not wish to decide matters, and force them, as the hon. member for South Lanark (Mr. Haggart) had said, *nolens volens*, upon the people of the Northwest, is that he suggested that Mr. Haultain should try to get amicable arrangements as to the boundary line and the number and division of the constituencies.

Mr. LAKE. Before I came to Ottawa in December, I received a letter from Mr. Haultain similar to a letter which, I understood, had been sent to every member from the Northwest, inviting us to meet in conference in Ottawa during the discussion of the Autonomy Bill. I understood that it was in pursuance of that policy that we were invited on two or three occasions to meet together. I was present at two meetings in room 48. The only questions seriously discussed were the possession of our lands and mines, and the boundary between the two provinces. Certainly nothing whatever was said in my presence in regard to the constituencies.

Mr. LAMONT. Will the hon. gentleman (Mr. Lake) say that at that conference in room 48, Mr. Haultain did not say, over and over again that the Prime Minister had asked him to give thirty constituencies to each province?

Mr. LAKE. I cannot deny it, because I was not present at the last meeting. But