

bably in the Dominion. For the last five or six years, we have raised the best crops grown anywhere in the country, either wheat, oats, barley or potatoes or in fact vegetables of almost any kind. So that I do not see any reason why our southern country should not be considered a first-class country, likely to go ahead in the future even more rapidly than any part of the northern country referred to. As regards schools, it is well known that in a stock country, the stock men evade the school tax in every way possible. That is easily understood by any one who understands the conditions under which these men live. There would be a large area covered by one of the stockmen, and the odd settlers who would go in there would naturally try to establish a school district. Eight children are sufficient to form a school district, but the stockmen would have to pay the bulk of the taxes and naturally would oppose the establishment of schools, and therefore they did their best to keep out small farmers who would settle on 160 acres each. They discouraged the schools and drove the small settlers into the town where their children could get schooling. That is one reason why there are not so many schools in the southern country as in the north. The local improvement districts are practically in the same position. A lot of farmers living together would rather turn out and do their own work with their own teams in their spare time in the month of June, than contribute \$2.50 to the general treasury. Whereas on the other hand the stockmen, who do not use teams very much, would naturally prefer to contribute to the general assembly at Regina, and every one in the Northwest has the option of either paying to the local improvement district at Regina or forming a local district. I think eight men, or about that number, can form a local district and do their own work if they see fit to do so. You can see from what I have said that the local improvement districts are not a very good ground for saying that there is more population in the north than in the south; neither do the post offices form a good index of population. The Minister of the Interior represented our district for the last eight years and I think he was more kind to the people of the north than to the south and for that reason there are more post offices in the north than in the south, although there is not so large a population. Many of our people have to go from ten to twenty miles for their mail. I have been asking this session for post offices in districts where there are a dozen families in a settlement who have to travel seven or eight miles for their mail, but my applications have been refused with the statement that it was impossible to establish post offices for that number of people. That I say is a good reason why post offices are not a good guide in which to estimate a basis of representation. The minister said it was

Mr. HERRON.

men who voted and not money or cattle. I claim that we have both men and the money in the south; we have a larger population and more invested, proportionately, than they have in the north country. That is not a reason why the northern people should not have an equitable proportion of representation, but under these conditions they should not have more representation in the north; it should be equal. The Minister of the Interior and the member for Assiniboia have said that the Northwest Territories assembly should have been called together and have the feeling of the people of the Northwest put on record with reference to these new constituencies. The reasons for not calling that legislature have been made clear to this House. There were seven vacant seats in the assembly, and the assembly held its annual session a year ago. The Northwest assembly received money from here as a sort of gift annually in the form of estimates, each item assigned to a special service. I suppose the estimate of last year was taken in the usual form and was used by the ordinary session last year. As soon as the session was over these men resigned. In the first place there was no money to hold the by-elections and I do not suppose there was anything provided where-with to hold a session of parliament. That I think is a good reason why the assembly was not called. Then it was well known or anticipated from the time parliament met and the Bill was introduced that the powers of the legislative assembly would cease on July 1st. We in the Territories, including Mr. Haultain, were expecting that we would eventually get justice in that country, and I have no doubt he was fighting and living in hope that we would get the same justice in the south. I was surprised to hear the hon. member for East Assiniboia (Mr. Turriff) say that my opponent was in favour of this distribution of the seats. The Board of Trade of Lethbridge has condemned it in the strongest terms possible, and I believe they have sent a protest to the First Minister. More than that the gentleman in the Lethbridge district who was looking for the nomination there and who I believe was nominated, received the nomination strictly on condition that he would oppose these Bills. He had to give that promise before he could get the nomination, and he is a Liberal supporting this government.

Mr. OLIVER. Has the hon. gentleman heard any objection from Macleod or Pincher Creek?

Mr. HERRON. I have had protests made to me personally and I think I can produce resolutions of the Board of Trade of Macleod.

Mr. OLIVER. And this Bill gives Macleod two members when it only had one by the redistribution of two years ago!