

lation! Of course, they represented a very large portion of the country, and possibly area was considered, a very heinous offence in the opinion of the hon. leader of the opposition. Surely the Conservative government must have considered the area in granting five members to 1,700 people. Well, now, the legislature was convened, but there was not a word said in the legislature, as far as I can find, about that awful outrage; but, on the contrary, three years afterwards, although the population of Saskatchewan had not increased probably any faster than the population of other parts of the country, the first legislature in their first redistribution increased the representation of Saskatchewan to six members. Possibly in the year 1891 they had very recent census figures to guide them. I find that by the census taken in 1891 Saskatchewan had a population of 11,150, Alberta 25,277 and Assiniboia 30,372. Saskatchewan was given six members by the legislature, not by this parliament, with an average of 1,858 souls per seat, while Assiniboia was given eleven seats on a population of 30,372, or an average of 2,531, while Alberta was held down to 8 seats with a population of 25,277, or an average of 3,159, or pretty nearly 100 per cent there again, done by the legislature itself. I find that sixteen years ago this parliament gave Saskatchewan a representation of 5 seats out of 22, with a unit of only 358 population as against Assiniboia's unit of no less than 1,500. And 13 years ago the legislature itself gave Saskatchewan a representation of 6 out of a total of 26 seats with a unit of only 1,858 as against Alberta's unit of 3,159. Now we are giving the same district of Saskatchewan out of practically 50—because keeping in mind the province of Alberta we are dealing with the whole Territory—we are giving the Saskatchewan area 9 seats out of a total of 50. I find upon making a calculation—like my hon. friend (Mr. Lake) I would not be willing to swear to the last figure of this calculation, but roughly speaking it is correct—we are giving the Saskatchewan area 9 seats with a unit of roundly 2,850 population as against a unit of 3,250 for the balance of the Territory, if we take the last census, or a unit of 830 votes cast as against a unit of 930 votes cast in the balance of the Territories, if we take the vote last fall. If there was no outrage perpetrated by this parliament in 1888 and no outrage perpetrated by the legislature 3 years later, it seems to me it will be difficult to work up an outrage out of what is being proposed in this Bill. My hon. friend (Mr. Lake) has referred to some of the alternative propositions which were made at this recent conference between himself and his leader and some members on this side of the House. He complained very grievously in his criticism the other evening against the disparities not only between the north and the south, but against the disparities that existed in

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the part of the new province which is composed by the old district of Assiniboia; or at all events some of his complaints were based upon discrepancies which we find do exist even in that perfect distribution which was made by the assembly three years ago. He complained that Moosejaw had a very large area and a disproportionately large population. That is being remedied by this Bill. A seat is taken from the north and is given to the city of Moosejaw, leaving the district of Moosejaw in a fairly average position so far as population and votes cast is concerned. He complained also that certain of the other districts, Souris, Cannington and South Qu'Appelle, had disproportionate votes compared with some other districts, and what he said in that regard was perfectly true. But I think my hon. friend (Mr. Lake) himself will be the first to admit that there was no disadvantage to the Conservative party in any of these disparities to which he drew pointed attention. Take the district of Souris and the district of Cannington, which have a large population, these are the parts of the country in which my hon. friend from East Assiniboia (Mr. Turriff) got his majority last fall, and even the fact that Moosejaw had a disproportionate vote and a disproportionate population did not involve any disadvantage to the Conservative party, because Moosejaw is a part of the country which never gave anything else but a Liberal majority since it has existed. However, when the conference met, recognizing very clearly that there were unfair disparities in the old district of Assiniboia under the assembly's plan, and some of these disparities being such that the people of the local communities have sent down grievous complaints, I took it upon myself to suggest that even if we gave 9 seats to the north and held the south down to 16 seats, that did not compel us to have these disparities remain if we could arrive at an agreement as to the remedy. I suggested to my hon. friend (Mr. Lake) that there was a part of the country on the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway to the eastern part of the province where the assembly's redistribution left the area very small, where also the vote last fall was comparatively small, and where the most reliable information that we can get goes to show that the population increase is almost infinitesimal in comparison with the increase in other parts of the country. I suggested that there were four districts, Moosomin, Whitewood, Grenfell and Wolseley, which might very fairly be put into three districts and that would enable us to provide a new district in the Soo line country with regard to which my hon. friend has made complaint. I may say that I have taken the liberty of drawing a map showing these changes. The officials of the department so far have been too busy to draw up the schedule to describe this map, but I think I can give in a very few moments a brief statement of the changes I propose