

As to the nationality of the people of the district of Edmonton, this House will certainly have to take my word to a certain extent. I have seen the allegations that have been made with regard to the nationalities of the people of that district and have taken the trouble to go into that question. Any one who is acquainted with the circumstances out there will know that the people are not absolutely divided by division walls into different nationalities or classes or religions. They are to a certain extent mixed, but there are settlements that we speak of as English, German, French, Galician and half-breed. I have grouped the polls in these different settlements and the votes cast at these polls in the election of November the 3rd. The result shows that out of a total vote in the district of 5,061, there were 2,835 cast at the English speaking polls, and 2,225 at all the other polls, leaving a clear majority to the English speaking polls of 609.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. What does the hon. gentleman mean by English speaking polls?

Mr. OLIVER. Those polls where the people are, by a large majority, English speaking. When we talk of the Galician or German or French polls, there are also English speaking people there as well, but I speak of the polls as they are generally divided in the minds of the people according to the voting population.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. May I ask how the minister arrived at that?

Mr. OLIVER. By personal knowledge.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Personal knowledge of all the polls?

Mr. OLIVER. Certainly, why not?

Mr. LALOR. Would the minister give us the result of these different polls?

Mr. OLIVER. I shall be very much pleased to do so; that is what I am coming to. As I figure the returns, the English polls gave 2,835 against 2,226, a clear majority for myself at the English-speaking polls of 609. Now with regard to the other nationalities the French polls gave a vote of 565. All the people in these districts are not French-speaking people; there are some Germans and some English-speaking people, but I class these as the French polls. The German polls gave a vote of 356; the Galicians, 780; and the half-breeds 525. Now, if the House would care to hear how these people voted, I will give the figures. These English-speaking polls gave a majority for myself of 916. How many of my friends on the other side of the House have as large a majority of English-speaking people to their credit? I fancy the hon. member for East Elgin has not. The French polls gave me a majority of 295, the Germans gave me a majority of 254, the Galicians 330, and the half-breeds

Mr. OLIVER.

208. The majority at the English-speaking polls was nearly as large as the total majorities at all the other polls. The proportions worked out approximately in this way: At the English-speaking polls, the vote was 2 to 1; the half-breeds 2 to 1; the Galicians $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 1; the French polls, $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 and the German polls, 6 to 1. And I may mention that the Germans at these polls are all Protestants. Regarding religious divisions, these, of course, can only be given approximately. But, as I have lived in that country the greater part of my life, I may claim to be somewhat familiar with the conditions. I figure that there are about 2,535 of the English-speaking votes, Protestants, and about 300 Catholics. Of the French 565 are Catholic. Of the Germans 365 are Protestants; of the half-breeds about one-quarter are Protestants—that is 125 Protestants to about 400 Catholics; the Galicians, 780, about half or a little less, belong to the united Greek Church, which is, to a certain extent, affiliated with the Church of Rome, but they are not Roman Catholics, and the remaining half are of the Orthodox Greek Church, which has no more connection with the Roman Catholic church than has the English church or any other Protestant denomination. So, as I judge the total might be counted as being made up of 3,116 Protestants and 1,265 Catholics. Crediting half the Galicians to the Roman Catholic church and half to the non-Roman churches, which, in this case may be classed together, there are 1,655 Roman Catholics, and 3,406 others, whom, to include them all under one name, we may speak of in this case as Protestants, or a Protestant majority of 2 to 1. These are the facts as I read them, and I put them on record for the information of the members of the opposition party in this House and out of it who excuse their failure to back up their challenges and threats by action when they were given the opportunity, and take refuge in attempts to discredit an opinion they were unable to influence.

Now, in regard to the character of the people. The city of Edmonton cast a total of 1,343 votes. The city of Edmonton is admitted to be if not the most rapidly progressing place in this Dominion, at least one of the most progressive. It is as thoroughly up-to-date as is the city of Ottawa or any other city in Canada so far as the appliances of civilization are concerned. It is second to no place of its size in the matter of trade and everything that goes to make a successful civilized community. When hon. members of this House take pleasure—in belittling and discrediting the standing and enterprise of the people of that city and surrounding country, they are simply striking a blow at the most progressive part of their own country and are doing themselves very little credit by their action. And I think the country will give them very little credit for it.

Now my hon. friend from East Elgin