

full discretion. The House has power to do in this case what it did in the case of the Northwest Territories two years ago.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Does the hon. gentleman argue that this undeveloped district is increasing more rapidly than the developed district?

Mr. SCOTT. I think that three or four years hence the population of those districts may be three-fold what it is to-day. We may reasonably expect that the population of these far-away districts may increase much faster than it can be expected to increase in the older portions of Alberta.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. That is entirely a matter of opinion, and the legislature can deal with those conditions when they arise. We are now dealing with present conditions, as we dealt with them in 1903, namely, that population had been pouring into the Northwest Territories for years more rapidly than into any other part of Canada; and although the census showed a population of 159,000 in 1901, we had good grounds for believing that at that time there was a population of 250,000, which would entitle the Territories to the ten members they received. But as to any argument that the Northwest Territories were entitled to these because of their area, I never heard of it, and I do not think the hon. gentleman did.

Mr. SCOTT. Upon what principle were the four members granted to the Territories in 1887, and the four members to Manitoba in 1870, and six to British Columbia about the same time?

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. It certainly was not upon any principle of area.

Mr. SCOTT. It certainly was.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Where does that appear?

Mr. SCOTT. In all these cases the reason was partly area.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Can the hon. gentleman cite anything to show that?

Mr. SCOTT. What other reason could there have been? There was only 17,000 population in Manitoba in 1870.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Area was never taken into consideration in the distribution of 1903, from first to last, so far as I am aware. I was on that committee, and attended every meeting. I debated nearly every constituency in Ontario, every one in the Northwest, every one in British Columbia, some in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick—I do not think I discussed any in Quebec, because that was settled by a conference between the Minister of Justice and my hon. friend from Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk). But I do not think any member of that committee would venture the assertion

Mr. SCOTT.

that from first to last the question of area was ever taken into consideration. I never heard the argument until during the debate yesterday and to-day; it would have been laughed at if it had been put forward.

Mr. SCOTT. My hon. friend has failed to show the reasons which must have prevailed in the case of Manitoba in 1870, the Territories in 1887, and British Columbia when it was brought into the confederation. What other reasons prevailed, if area was not one? There must have been some reason in addition to the claim upon population, because I repeat that Manitoba in 1870 had only 17,000, and it was given four seats, although it would scarcely have been entitled to one seat on the basis of population. What other calculation could have been made?

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I do not think, in the case of Manitoba, it could have been area, because there was one constituency in Ontario which was probably double the size of Manitoba at that time.

Mr. SCOTT. What other reason was there then?

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Well, the hon. gentleman can refer to the debates. In British Columbia, if area had been taken into consideration, the representation would have been very much more than the representation from Prince Edward Island. British Columbia has an area of over 300,000 square miles and Prince Edward Island an area of about 2,000 square miles. And yet the representation was about equal in the two provinces.

Mr. SCOTT. British Columbia did not have half that population in 1870.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. That may be, but those provinces were free to make their own bargain.

Mr. SCOTT. The Territories made no bargain in 1887.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. True, but surely he does not pretend that area was ever taken into consideration, otherwise the representation would have been enormous.

Mr. SCOTT. The committee is still in the dark about any other reason than area.

Mr. PERLEY. I think the representation to British Columbia was given as a condition to her entering the confederation.

Mr. SCOTT. Yes; but the committee is still in the dark as to how the matter was arrived at if it was not on the basis of area as well as population. The hon. gentleman has not disproved my statement.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I do not know that I am obliged to take for granted everything the hon. gentleman says unless some one disproves it. He states something, and, unless some one disproves it, says it must be