

Mr. LAKE. I am quite willing to take the right hon. Prime Minister's own figures which show that there is a smaller voting population in the northern part of Alberta than there is in the southern part.

Mr. OLIVER. The vote cast in the whole province of Alberta outside of the cities south of the new district of Saskatchewan, partly south and partly north of the Saskatchewan river, was 1,168.

Mr. LAKE. The hon. gentleman is taking an isolated case again. If you average it up you will see the unfairness of this distribution. It is well known there are variations and I have stated that if you will take these variations and average them fairly between the north and the south it is a different question altogether. On the very face of this question and in view of the figures which have been presented to the committee I say this it an unfair distribution and that is why I am opposed to it. It is not because I think Calgary would make a better capital than Edmonton. I have not expressed my views upon that point because I do not think I have any right as a member of this House, nor do I think that any member of this House has the right to dictate to the people of Alberta where their capital shall be.

Mr. INGRAM. Will the hon. Minister of the Interior tell me how the area of Edmonton that he now represents compares with the area of the two constituencies in Athabaska and Peace River?

Mr. OLIVER. I should say that the area of the Edmonton district would be approximately one-fourth of the area of the district of Athabaska, or the area of the Dominion electoral district would be about one-half of the area of the district of Athabaska.

Mr. INGRAM. Do the polling subdivisions that are located in Edmonton cover a greater area than the polling subdivisions there would be in Athabaska and Peace River?

Mr. OLIVER. In one way they do not, and in another way they do. In Athabaska the polling divisions in each proposed district would be in a continuous line along the river. The distance between the extreme east and the extreme west polling division in the Edmonton district is about 250 miles, roughly speaking, whereas the distance between the polling subdivisions at Lesser Slave Lake and at Smith Portage, which would be the most northerly part of the

proposed Athabaska division, in a direct line would be about 350 or 400 miles but by river, which is the only means of communication, it would be 150 miles more.

Mr. INGRAM. So that the polling divisions in Athabaska and Peace River would be more convenient than in Edmonton, because in Edmonton they are more scattered?

Mr. OLIVER. If the distance were not greater they would be more convenient, but the distance is greater.

Mr. INGRAM. Would the hon. gentleman give us the shortest period of time within which an election could be held by the Northwest government in this area?

Mr. OLIVER. My hon. friend will remember that the hon. member for Saskatchewan has already stated that there are polling divisions in the local district of Kinistino where the polls cannot be held at the same time as the general polls throughout the territory. These polls have to be postponed from ten days to two weeks beyond the ordinary time, but the time between nomination and election is ten days. Three weeks would be the shortest possible time, leaving out the extreme polls in Kinistino.

House divided on amendment (Mr. M. S. McCarthy).

Amendment negatived—Nays 70. Yeas 32.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. Shall the section carry?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I presume it will be discussed item by item. I move that the committee rise, report progress and ask leave to sit again.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I may say to the right hon. gentleman that I have another amendment to move, and it is very desirable we should adjourn now after working nine hours. I shall hand my right hon. friend a copy of the amendment this evening or tomorrow morning in order that he may have notice.

Progress reported.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER moved the adjournment of the House.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I suppose we will continue with this same matter to-morrow.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Certainly.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 11.30 p.m.