

visable to divide a town so that a part falls in one constituency and a part in another; and so that the citizens shall be compelled to go many miles north for registration in one case and many miles south in the other.

It is necessary also to consider means of communication; for it is advisable that as far as possible the same line of communication should serve those who are found in the same constituency. It also follows that where there are no means of communication and where it is unlikely that there will be any for many years to come, one should think twice before endeavouring to establish constituencies, knowing the grave difficulties that must necessarily follow. Then, it is necessary to consider the representation of interests. We find many and varied interests in this rich province of Alberta—the ranching and the farming, the urban and the rural, the mining, the irrigation, the fur trading, and so on. In these interests there are large sums of money invested, and an effort should be made to see that each of these interests is represented in the new House by some one who is permitted and able to speak for it. And it must not altogether be lost sight of that there are immense amounts of capital in some of the old constituencies, which are to some extent entitled to representation; for certainly investments will form a large portion of the consideration of the new House, and a territory sparsely populated, or practically not populated at all, can hardly have the same interest in the legislation as can a constituency in which large capital is invested. Then, ethnological conditions need to be considered. It is inadvisable to submerge a portion of the population which is to some extent homogeneous. It is advisable that they should be so placed so as to have representation by one of themselves. All these are considerations that have to be taken into account when dealing with the distribution of the representation of a province. We are not inclined to place the same stress on more area than the hon. Minister of Interior does. Vacant land does not contribute to the revenue of a country nor supply votes, and we fail to see how we are justified in the present case in anticipating, in the rosy manner in which the hon. Minister of the Interior has done, the possible filling up at some future date of this northern country. The hon. minister has argued that such representation should be given in the new legislature because of the development that is about to take place in that northern country. Well, I submit that the legislature which will be elected by the people of Alberta will be thoroughly competent to deal with measures for the development of that northern country, whether it has a representative or not. Surely, if there be matters which require the attention of the local legislature, they will be dealt with in the regular way. The

Mr. AMES.

hon. minister has also drawn attention to the British Columbia analogy, and has spoken of that portion of British Columbia which lies north and east of the Rocky Mountains. Possibly the hon. minister does not remember that the hon. member who sits in this House for Yale-Cariboo (Mr. D. Ross) has a constituency which is bounded on the south by the American boundary line and on the north by the Yukon, and yet, when he canvasses for votes, he does not go higher than 100 or 125 miles north of the Thompson river, nor does he attempt to canvass or give representation to that part of Yale-Cariboo which lies north and east of the Rocky Mountains. The people of British Columbia take the sensible course of attaching this unorganized territory to an organized territory; and if the hon. Minister of the Interior would arrange to have the unorganized territory of Peace River attached to St. Albert and the unorganized territory of Athabaska attached to Sturgeon, the two western of these districts forming one constituency lying east of the Rocky Mountains, and the others forming one further to the east of these—

Mr. OLIVER. Does the hon. gentleman contend that northern British Columbia is not represented directly in the legislature?

Mr. AMES. I was speaking of the representative of Yale-Cariboo in this House.

Mr. OLIVER. Does the hon. gentleman include in his remarks the representation in the local legislature of British Columbia?

Mr. AMES. I would ask the hon. member whether the portion of British Columbia that lies east and north of the Rocky Mountains has a representative of its own in the provincial House?

Mr. OLIVER. It forms part, I believe, of the electoral district of Cassiar.

Mr. AMES. And I will ask another question: Is there any attempt made to organize or get any vote for that portion of British Columbia lying north and east of the Rocky Mountains?

Mr. OLIVER. I could not tell you that.

Mr. AMES. None whatever. For local purposes it may be attached to Cassiar, but no attempt is made to organize it for electoral purposes.

Now, the hon. minister has spoken of the prospective increase, and on that basis has attempted to give us reasons why there should be seven constituencies north of the North Saskatchewan river, where there were only three before. I think we shall have at the outset to say plainly that we are dealing with present conditions and not discounting the future. It may be a popular amusement in Edmonton to decide what town lots will be worth ten years from now; but at the present moment we are dealing with facts and fig-