

that statement. I am willing to give my hon. friend's statement every consideration, but I have yet to learn that he is absolutely infallible in these matters, which are matters of opinion and not of personal knowledge.

Mr. ADAMSON. I have been frequently through that district on business. The homestead entries will show there must have been a large influx of settlers. There are now four towns there.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Very good, let us take the homestead entries, and we find a very great discrepancy in the representation given to the 16 and the 9 constituencies. There are 31,000 homestead entries in the 16 constituencies in the south as compared with 17,424 in the 9 constituencies in the north, yet not very much regard seems to have been attached to that consideration in the making out of this schedule. Although we have a population nearly three times greater, according to the census of 1901, in the south we have 16 members allotted to one portion of the province and 9 to the other. Assuming that the population has increased in the same ratio as the homestead entries, we would not find any change such as would justify the distribution the government proposes to make.

Mr. LAMONT. Is not the proportion of 9 members to 17,000 homestead entries just about the same as 16 members to 31,000 homestead entries?

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Suppose it is, that would seem to indicate that the population in the south has increased as much as in the north.

Mr. LAMONT. Would not that also indicate that 9 members for the 17,000 is the same proportion as for the 31,000?

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Not at all. The population of the 9 constituencies, as I have heard my hon. friend from Qu'Appelle (Mr. Lake) give it, was about 26,000 according to the census of 1901, out of a total of 90,000.

Mr. LAMONT. That would be for Saskatchewan, but these 9 take in a considerable portion of Assiniboia as well, which would not be considered as belonging to the Saskatchewan population.

Mr. LAKE. The population was exclusive of Indians, 20,769 in Saskatchewan, and 61,008 in Assiniboia.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. The difference to which the hon. gentleman has just referred would not very much affect the result of the calculation. You have a population of 20,000 against a population of 61,000. You have homestead entries in the north to the number of 17,424 and in the south to the number of 31,611. The inevitable result is that if you base a distribution upon the population, according to the census of 1901,

and according to the subsequent homestead entries, you could not possibly arrive at any such result as that which the government is attempting to embody in the proposed schedule. Let us take their number of post offices, on which great reliance was placed in the case of Alberta. There are 100 in Saskatchewan and 285 in Assiniboia. Then take the schools, upon which the Minister of the Interior placed perhaps the strongest reliance and so did the First Minister, when dealing with Alberta—according to a return brought down to the House from the government of the Territories, there are 200 schools in Saskatchewan and 575 in Assiniboia. Base it on any information you like, you cannot work out any such result as that which the government desires to enforce in making its distribution.

I have looked over, with some interest, the proposal which my hon. friend from Qu'Appelle (Mr. Lake) has submitted to the committee as a basis of what may be accomplished if you propose to distribute the seats in Saskatchewan upon an even basis of population. He has divided the province into 25 constituencies. I observe that the least number of voters which he gives to any constituency is 1,200, and the highest 1,825. The average in 16 constituencies in the southern part of the province is 1,550, and in the 9 constituencies in the northern part of the province, 1,425. There is not, it is true, absolute equality of population. It would be difficult, if not impossible to work that out. But when you consider 1,200 on the voters' list in the lowest division and 1,825 in the highest division, and compare that with what is proposed by the government with respect to Humboldt and Redberry on the one hand and Souris and South Qu'Appelle on the other hand, it seems to me absolutely obvious that it is possible without any difficulty, to make a fairer and more equitable distribution of seats in this province than is proposed by this Bill. I regret that the efforts made to bring about some compromise with regard to this vexed matter have not been successful. I am bound to say that I think that my hon. friend from Qu'Appelle is not in fault in that regard, because while he has strong opinions on this question, I have always found him moderate in his views and willing to accept any reasonable compromise. I do not think that the distribution proposed by the government in Saskatchewan is any better than that in Alberta. I say that for the information of the hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Scott). I think that they are very much alike, except that, if possible, there is even a greater discrepancy between Humboldt and Souris in Saskatchewan than any that is to be found in the province of Alberta, if we accept the evidence of the Minister of the Interior as to the northern ridings of the province. It is perfectly obvious that no principle was selected in the first place upon which these