

last fall, are entitled to representation in the local House?

Mr. LAKE. Why did not the Minister of the Interior make that the basis of the distribution of seats?

Mr. LAMONT. As a matter of fact, does the hon. gentleman think they should be represented?

Mr. LAKE. I certainly think the population of this country should be represented in the legislative assembly no matter who they are. One man's vote should be just as good as another.

Mr. LAMONT. Even although they have not been long enough in the district to vote?

Mr. LAKE. The hon. gentleman will have an opportunity in a moment or two of making his speech. In one of his constituencies, to which they are only given one member, and which cast a very large number of votes last year, the district of Saltcoats, there were upwards of 11,000 inhabitants. Should they not have a proportionate say in the representation of the country just as well as the other new settlers. If the hon. gentleman will take one basis and go on that throughout, I am willing to support him. I believe the fairest basis to be just now the number of votes placed on the voters' list by the officials of the Dominion government on the 3rd of November last. Here is another comparison I would like to make before sitting down. Ten southern constituencies cast upwards of 1,100 votes each—one of them as high as 2,500. There are three northern constituencies which, grouped together, did not cast 1,000 votes among them. That appears to me an extraordinary condition of affairs. The three northern constituencies are Redberry, Humboldt and Prince Albert. Prince Albert city and Prince Albert rural district get a very ample representation—far more than they are entitled to on an even distribution. I might refer to that question of Prince Albert which I mentioned just now. Prince Albert, city and country together, cast 1,026 votes. There is another constituency in the northern part of the district, the district of Kinistino, which the government proposes to form. That district has an area, outside of Athabaska altogether, of 25,000 square miles odd. The two districts of Prince Albert have between them only an area of 6,555 square miles. The vote cast in the district of Kinistino was 1,029. That is to say, even with that enormous area the vote cast in the district of Kinistino was in excess of that cast in the two constituencies alongside, to which the government proposes to give two representatives. I may have something more to say on this matter later on. For the present I shall content myself with submitting what I consider a fair and moderate criticism on the question before the committee.

Mr. SCOTT. My hon. friend's criticism on the Saskatchewan redistribution schedule

is very much milder than a great deal of the criticisms we have seen in the Conservative press throughout the country during the past three or four months, or some of the criticisms we have heard in this House. I think it was the hon. gentleman's leader who said that he found in these distribution schedules the worst gerrymander that had ever been perpetrated anywhere in the world, even the United States.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I was not speaking of this one. I was speaking of Alberta, and may speak of this one presently.

Mr. SCOTT. I am very glad to find the hon. gentleman much more disposed to agree that the Saskatchewan schedule is fair.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. You will find out about that.

Mr. SCOTT. My hon. friend from Qu'Appelle (Mr. Lake) feels disposed to make his criticism milder. He has within recent days taken the responsibility of making a map and has found that it is much more difficult to make a proper distribution than offer criticism. When he spoke a few evenings ago in criticism of the Saskatchewan schedule, he was horrified to find the area of the district of Maple Creek in comparison with the area of the district of Rosthern. I am surprised to find that in the map—

Mr. LAKE. The hon. gentleman is not giving a fair estimate of my remarks on that point. I compared the area and the vote.

Mr. SCOTT. For what purpose?

Mr. LAKE. The two together.

Mr. SCOTT. My hon. friend asked the committee to look at the area of Maple Creek in comparison with the district of Rosthern. I find upon his own map that he has actually added to the area of Maple Creek by something over 6,000 square miles. And in the district of Rosthern he has cut off a township or two and actually makes it smaller than it is in the schedule presented by the government. I find also that one of his pet districts, the district of Wolseley, which is certainly not a very large district even upon the government map, he has reduced by some three townships. Wolseley did not cast a very large vote either last fall. They didn't have a large registered vote last fall. And, consulting other statistics, we are led to believe that the population of Wolseley has not been increasing as fast as that of other places.

Mr. LAKE. How many votes were cut off the district of Wolseley?

Mr. SCOTT. If my hon. friend (Mr. Lake) found a district that was not exceptionally large, that was, in fact, rather on the small side, which did not cast a vote last fall equal to the average, what was his purpose in reducing the size? I am not offering these observations in criticism