

Mr. INGRAM. Now, the hon. gentleman has staked his word on that. Has the hon. gentleman no confidence in his friends in the southern part of the province of Alberta, and does he think that if he stated the case to them candidly they would not grant him more representation? He has never given his friends in the south an opportunity to express themselves; he has no faith in them. But what did the hon. gentleman do? First, like a detective who was determined to fasten the crime on a suspected criminal, he says: We must have two constituencies in Athabaska, we must cut that in two. Next, like a detective with a supposed criminal, he had to make his schedules figure out 23 constituencies, giving two additional ones to the north; and by that means he would get 13 north of Red Deer and 12 south, thus capturing the government seat. That is the whole thing—just like a detective fastening the crime on the criminal, innocent or guilty. For the last two years in this House hon. gentlemen on this side have been advocating local autonomy for the Northwest Territories, which, however, the government refused on the ground of scarcity of population. But to-day we find them giving over-representation to a thinly populated district, and under-representation to a more populous district. The hon. gentleman has told us about a friend who furnished him with certain information with respect to what has been found in Athabaska and the Peace River. He does not know this of his own knowledge.

Mr. PETER TALBOT. I did not say I did. I explained where I got it. I said I could not prove it, but believed it to be true.

Mr. INGRAM. As I said before, the detective is determined to fasten the crime on the supposed criminal, and is prepared to accept hearsay evidence that will prove his case.

Mr. PETER TALBOT. Who else would a detective fasten the crime on but the criminal?

Mr. INGRAM. Now, on this side of the House we want a little more substantial evidence than has been furnished. It has been stated that there were some 3,000 white settlers went into that country recently. Where is the record of that? Here is an official document furnished to us by the government, that is better than any hearsay evidence, because the government must assume the responsibility for the documents they issue to parliament. I find, according to this map, the hon. gentleman has claimed more of the homestead entries for Battleford than that portion of Alberta is entitled to.

Mr. PETER TALBOT. But hon. gentlemen opposite do not give us any.

Mr. INGRAM. I have here the figures prepared by the hon. gentlemen on this side. Now the homestead entries I have here for 1902-3 north of township 38—

Mr. PETER TALBOT. But we want you to go back of 1902-3 and give all the homestead entries or none.

Mr. INGRAM. Does the hon. gentleman want to go back to 1891?

Mr. PETER TALBOT. I want to go back to the time when the land officers were established, taking all the homestead entries granted in the province of Alberta. Now, there is the square thing.

Mr. INGRAM. If the hon. gentleman (Mr. Peter Talbot) will give us the entries up to 1903, we can add the rest.

Mr. PETER TALBOT. I will gladly furnish the information I have. In the Edmonton land office there have been 18,773 homesteads up to 31st March, 1905.

Mr. INGRAM. Since when?

Mr. PETER TALBOT. Since the Edmonton land office was established.

Mr. INGRAM. When was that?

Mr. PETER TALBOT. I do not know exactly we are both in the same fix there. In Beaver Lake land office there were 436 entries. In Battleford land office we claim a certain portion of the total, say 1,243.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. What proportion is that?

Mr. PETER TALBOT. One-fourth.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. On what basis is that?

Mr. PETER TALBOT. On the proportion of the Battleford land district that extends into the present province of Alberta.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Is it based on the proportion of the surveyed townships?

Mr. PETER TALBOT. It is based on the part of the district that we know is settled.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. In area, or by surveyed townships?

Mr. PETER TALBOT. In area. I merely glanced at the map, and supposed it would be one quarter. I know it is all taken up. The government have had to appoint an inspector at Lloydminster.

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY. Is it taken up to the 4th meridian on the eastern boundary of the hon. gentleman's constituency?

Mr. PETER TALBOT. A good deal of it is. The settlement extends on both sides of the town of Lloydminster which is on the 4th initial meridian. Then, I have taken half the Red Deer entries, 4,630. This will make the total number of homestead entries north of Red Deer, 25,432. In