

has spoken the amendment which I have moved. Let us consider that amendment for a moment in one or two aspects; but before doing so let me remark that the Minister of the Interior yesterday was very free with a challenge to have the territorial legislature called and to accept their verdict as to what the delimitations should be. The hon. Minister of the Interior need not have asked for the calling of the legislature nor need he have professed his willingness to accept what they should say on the subject because this legislature only two years ago made a certain delimitation both of this province and of the adjoining province of Saskatchewan, and the only answer to the argument based upon that delimitation is the suggestion that the delimitation then made was absolutely unfair. As far as I have heard of any proceedings with regard thereto, claims of unfairness came particularly from a portion of the Territories which is not included in these unorganized districts, and could not be so included. They came from a portion of the riding which I think is to the south rather than to the north. If we are to go by the opinion and views of the legislature of the Northwest Territories, we have their latest pronouncement in a delimitation of those constituencies which is absolutely out of agreement with that proposed by the administration to-day. When we come down to the action of our own parliament in 1903, four constituencies were established which are practically in the new province of Alberta. I shall point out in a moment to what extent that is not correct. They are the electoral districts of Alberta, Calgary, Strathcona and Edmonton. The division then made was made with the assent of the members of the Northwest Territories representing the administration. It was one which they themselves proposed. It was submitted to the senators for the Territories, as I think there were no members from the Territories on the Conservative side. The senators from the Territories had some knowledge of local conditions and they regarded the division as fairly satisfactory on both sides. At all events the delimitation was proposed by the administration and its supporters, and we must assume they were fair divisions. I have not heard any evidence or statement that the conditions of development and progress of population have been materially different in any of these constituencies from what they are in the others. I shall assume until I hear evidence to the contrary that they are practically the same. I think the claim has been made by some of my hon. friends on this side of the House that the development has been rather greater in the southern than in the northern riding, but I am content to regard the progress as approximately the same. You have the electoral districts of Strathcona, Alberta, Calgary and Edmonton. You have besides included in the new pro-

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vince of Alberta a portion of the provincial district of Assiniboia. This is included within the province of Alberta although not within the electoral district of Alberta, and there seems to be substantial agreement on both sides of the House that this shall be entitled in the legislature to one member. Now if you give to that portion of the new province of Alberta one member—I am referring to what is called in the schedule the electoral division of Medicine Hat—and if you assign to that portion of Alberta which formed part of the unorganized district of Athabasca, you are certainly doing full justice to the supposed 5,000 people in the district. If you give to them one member surely you have discharged your full duty to them, for you have given them much greater representation than you are giving to the electors in the proposed electoral division of Medicine Hat; you are giving them their full rights according to the statement of the Minister of the Interior. If you adopted our distribution so far you would dispose of two of the twenty-five seats which are proposed. You have then twenty-three seats remaining. You have four federal electoral districts, which were established in 1903 by the consent and to the satisfaction of every person. Looking at those four ridings you find that in one of them—I will not go into the figures—the federal electoral district of Alberta, there is a smaller number of voters on the list and a smaller number of votes polled than in any of the others, a difference sufficiently great to be taken into consideration. You have twenty-three members to allot. Allot six of those to the electoral district of Calgary, six to Strathcona, six to Edmonton and five to the federal district of Alberta in the south, which as I have said before has a smaller electoral list and polls a smaller number of votes. It seems to me you would then be doing substantial justice even upon the statements of the Minister of the Interior and upon the Prime Minister himself to the unorganized territory in the north, and I believe upon the whole you would be doing probably substantial justice to all parts of the province. You would thus remove the sense of injustice which otherwise will prevail. I have no part in any controversy about the capitals. That, it seems to me, is a matter to be settled by the people themselves. I do not take into consideration any such interests, but I think as a member of this House I am justified and I am in duty bound to raise my voice against any such proposal as that submitted by the administration which will give to 5,000 people in an unorganized and undeveloped portion of a new province four times the voice in the new legislature which is possessed by the same number of inhabitants in any other part of the province. Take for example the city of Calgary or the city of Edmonton. I do not know what the popu-