

ness take it as a basis in the district of Alberta. They must do one or the other, if they are going to be fair. If they take the census as a basis, then, it is clear that there are from 6,000 to 9,000 more people north of township 38 than there are south of township 38. And if they take one member away from Athabaska, they will have to give one to the northern part of Strathcona or Edmonton, if they want to be fair,—but I think that is the last thing they do want to be. If they will not take the census as a basis in the old part of the province, then I submit that they have no right to take it as a basis for Athabaska; and, if they estimate a fair increase of population in the older part of the province, they are equally bound to estimate a fair increase in this vast new territory.

Mr. SPROULE. Does not the hon. minister see that the census is the one and only basis we have for Athabaska, while it is one of several we have for the other portion of the province.

Mr. OLIVER. Surely.

Mr. SPROULE. Then, why should we be obliged to omit the only evidence we have with regard to Athabaska?

Mr. OLIVER. I am giving hon. gentlemen opposite their choice—take one or the other, but not one for one part of the country and the other for the other part of the country.

Mr. SPROULE. But does not the minister see that for one part of the country we have nothing else, and in the other part of the country we have?

Mr. OLIVER. But if they are willing to stand on that in one part of the country why not in the other part?

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I do not know whether the hon. minister (Mr. Oliver) is referring to me or not. But, in case he may be, I think it only fair to say that I made no such argument.

Mr. OLIVER. I was speaking of the general argument.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Then, I wish the hon. gentleman would except me. I said I thought his estimate of the population of Athabaska very much exaggerated and express the belief that he could not support it with evidence. But, for the sake of argument, I accepted it and made my remarks on that basis.

Mr. FOSTER. I hope the hon. minister will kindly except me also, as I did not use that argument.

Mr. OLIVER. I will take the hon. gentleman's (Mr. Foster's) word for it certainly.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. If you except one, you will have to except all.

Mr. OLIVER. I will certainly except the two leaders. I think it would be well if all

Mr. OLIVER.

their followers got up and repudiated their argument in the same way.

Mr. LAKE. I have already done so. While I am on my feet, I would ask the hon. minister to repeat his estimate of the population of the two constituencies.

Mr. OLIVER. Of the district of Athabaska?

Mr. LAKE. Yes.

Mr. OLIVER. I estimated 5,000 whites and half-breeds, and the census gives about 1,500 Indians—a total of about 6,500, as a mere estimate. The Indians are entitled to be considered in such an estimate as well as the Indians of Macleod or elsewhere.

Mr. LAKE. I think the census gives 3,716 Indians.

Mr. OLIVER. In the western part of the district of Athabaska?

Mr. LAKE. No, in Athabaska.

Mr. OLIVER. I will accept that estimate of the Indians if the hon. gentleman (Mr. Lake) desires it.

Mr. LAKE. I did not know whether the hon. gentleman (Mr. Oliver) was referring to only half of Athabaska.

Mr. OLIVER. I referred to the part to be taken into the district of Alberta. Well, I was saying that if hon. gentlemen opposite will withdraw from that position—

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY. If the hon. minister has the figures, would he state the number of half-breeds in the two districts of Athabaska and Peace River?

Mr. OLIVER. I have not the half-breeds as distinct from the whites. The distinction I drew was between voters and non-voters,—between whites and half-breeds on the one side and Indians on the other.

Mr. LAKE. How many half-breeds and Indians does he calculate in the eastern and how many in the western part of Athabaska?

Mr. OLIVER. I have not made that calculation. I was pointing out that the two leaders of hon. gentlemen opposite did not take the position to which I have referred, and if hon. gentlemen behind them will repudiate it, we will be in a fair way to come to an agreement. Because, as I have shown, taking the figures of the leader of the opposition, taking his argument, if he accepts my estimate of 5,000 whites and half-breeds of Athabaska, it will be manifest that there is no such disparity in representation as would cause the rejection of the proposition to give two members in the local House to this territory;—quite the contrary. When we see the difference existing as between a city constituency in the province of Quebec, to say nothing about the difference between city and rural constituencies which prevail all over the Dominion; if we accept the esti-