

the manufactured goods of this country than these same pioneers who are in that far off land. The food that they eat is what they want to get. A large proportion they get in the country and do not get from Calgary. All the clothes they wear they do not buy. They hunt for them to a certain extent. They do not wear the same fine raiment that the hon. Minister of the Interior wears, and in which he sports himself in these more civilized and social parts of the Dominion.

Mr. OLIVER. Yes they do.

Mr. FOSTER. Their costs and charges are not so high. Consequently my hon. friend, if he will just look at it calmly, will climb down a little farther still from that astonishing assertion of his that Calgary's great growth within the last five or six years was due to the fact that Athabaska and Peace River existed, and to the fact that there were some 500 or 800 people in that part of the country.

Mr. OLIVER. May I ask the hon. gentleman what he thinks the people out there do wear?

Mr. FOSTER. Well, I suppose they are clothed much the same as John the Baptist was, and perhaps they eat the same food.

Mr. OLIVER. I can only say to the hon. gentleman that he is entirely mistaken. They wear the same clothes that we do.

Mr. FOSTER. Is it not locusts and wild honey that they eat?

Mr. OLIVER. Not at all. They do not wear skins of beasts; they wear the same clothes as we do.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. We all wear the skins of beasts in winter time.

Mr. FOSTER. Most of us are in the skins of animals.

Mr. OLIVER. Most of them do not wear skins of animals in that country.

Mr. LALOR. Could the hon. minister inform the committee as to the area of wheat land under cultivation, the number of bushels raised and the number of grist mills in the district of Athabaska?

Mr. OLIVER. In the proposed new district of Athabaska I am not sure that there are any mills although I think there is one. In the Peace River district, as I have already stated, there is a roller process 50 barrel mill and one stone mill. I cannot give the capacity of this but it is at Peace River crossing. There is one mill owned by the Roman Catholic mission at Peace River River crossing. There is one mill owned by the Roman Catholic mission at Vermilion. There are four mills in the Peace River part of the country. I do not suppose that the two mission mills are of any large account, but the other two mills are of very good capacity and very great usefulness.

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Mr. LALOR. May I ask the hon. minister the area of the wheat land in cultivation and the number of bushels raised in that district?

Mr. OLIVER. I have not that information under my hand. I have a lot of information I could give, but it is not absolutely authoritative. It is only current report.

Mr. GALLIHER. The theory advanced by some hon. gentlemen who have discussed this question from the other side of the House is along the line that representation should be according to population or as nearly so as possible. That might obtain in an old settled country, but I submit it does not obtain in new countries such as portions of this new province of Alberta. We have to take into consideration conditions as they exist. We have to look to the future in regard to the probable increase of population. I will quote to the committee from the census of 1901 of the province of British Columbia to show the conditions which existed there in regard to representation in different local electoral districts. The distribution of seats to which I propose to refer was one made by the provincial government of British Columbia itself and is the one which obtained at the time the census was taken in 1901. I will give the population of some of the rural districts then and compare one with the other, and we will see that even in a distribution of seats made by a province for the purposes of its own provincial legislation the populations do not agree to any extent. We will take, for instance, the rural riding of Nanaimo North. We find that the population, according to the census of 1901, was 1,439. Take the adjoining rural district of Nanaimo South; we find there a population of 5,146, almost five times as large. Again, we will take the district of Lillooet East; we find the population of only 789. In Lillooet West immediately adjoining it we find a population of 3,196, and mark you, in each of these ridings that I have mentioned they have the same representation, namely, one member. We will go farther and we will find that in the district of Kootenay East, north riding there is a population of 1,938 with one representative, and in Kootenay East south riding a population of 6,508 with one representative. We will also find that the district of Kootenay West, Revelstoke riding, with a population at that time of 3,003, and Kootenay West, Rossland riding, with a population of 14,603, and one representative given to each. Therefore, where the province itself had the fixing of the electoral districts the province did not adhere to any approximate basis. We find that one district represented by over 14,000 population has but one representative and another district with 3,000 population has one representative. We find that one district of 789 has one representative and that another and adjoining