

of the hon. gentleman's map, but I am trying to show the committee, and particularly my hon. friend (Mr. Lake), that it is much easier to criticise a distribution map than it is to frame one. We have had, as I have already said, from the Conservative members, the most vehement denunciation of these proposals. The leader of the opposition declared that the distribution of Alberta was the worst gerrymander there had ever been in the world—he could not find anything to equal it in the United States. When my hon. friend from Qu'Appelle (Mr. Lake) was criticising the Saskatchewan distribution a few evenings ago, he referred to the last federal redistribution. It may not be out of order for me to make some observations on the redistribution made by this parliament in 1903. In the first place, who made the federal redistribution of 1903, so far as the Northwest Territories are concerned? Was it the bi-party committee of which the hon. Minister of Public Works (Mr. Hyman) was chairman? No. We have the evidence of the leader of the opposition himself that the matter of redistribution of the Northwest was referred to a committee of gentlemen representing the Northwest Territories, senators and members of this House, representing both sides of politics. It did not take us more than fifteen minutes to reach an agreement. Does the hon. gentleman think that that redistribution was not a fair one? Does the hon. member for Qu'Appelle claim that it was unfair? Does the hon. member for Alberta (Mr. Herron) claim that it was unfair?

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY. If you will adopt it for Alberta.

Mr. SCOTT. I am speaking of the federal redistribution two years ago.

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY. Adopt that and we will be satisfied.

Mr. SCOTT. The hon. gentleman (Mr. M. S. McCarthy) is willing to admit that it was a fair redistribution—

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY. For Alberta.

Mr. SCOTT. Perfectly fair as between the parties.

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY. For Alberta.

Mr. SCOTT. Yes, and for Saskatchewan. And perfectly fair as between the north and south. At that time those who made that redistribution did not look upon it as a matter involving a division between north and south or any difference between the parties. At that time the northern part of the country was not looked upon as more Liberal than the southern part. I will recall to the memory of members of that committee—and I think that they will say that I am stating the facts correctly—that prior to the 3rd of November, nobody had any idea that the vote would be as it proved. In fact many expected that the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Oliver) was go-

Mr. SCOTT.

ing to be defeated in the district of Edmonton. On the other hand the Liberals were just as confident that they would carry the district of Alberta as they were that the Liberals in the person of the Minister of the Interior would carry the district of Edmonton. The 1903 distribution was not looked upon as a disputed question between the north and south or as between the parties. There was in that sub-committee on redistribution no consideration of party or any other advantage; we approached the work with the simple desire to make a fair and equitable distribution on the basis of census figures, allowing for expected increase of population to take place within the next few years. If hon. gentlemen will look at the map of this federal distribution, they will find that there were five southern seats, as they may be called, south of the north line of township 34 between the Rocky Mountains and the elbow of the Saskatchewan, being about north of Swift Current, and the line north of township 24 from the elbow of the Saskatchewan to the Manitoba boundary line. And as there were five constituencies south of that line, so there were five to the north. I think every one will admit that that redistribution was perfectly fair in a party sense. That being admitted, let us consider how it was as between the north and the south. We find that in two western ridings of the north district there was a total of 11,000 votes in November, as against 9,000 in the two ridings in the south district. So, there was no unfairness to the southern part of the country in that.

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY. I pointed out, when discussing this matter before, that the constituency of Alberta did not go as far east as the fourth meridian.

Mr. SCOTT. There were two constituencies in the western part of the north district and two in the western part of the south district. And the division of 11,000 votes to the north and 9,000 to the south was certainly not unfair to the south. I think that it must be admitted that that redistribution as adjusted to the circumstances then known, was a fair and equitable distribution. Now, as between the three north districts in the proposed province of Saskatchewan and the three south districts in the same, there was a great disparity of votes on the 3rd of November last. Nobody expected anything else. Those who prepared this redistribution expected that there would be a larger vote in the three ridings of the south than in the three ridings of the north; and that expectation was realized. It was also expected that the population in the northern part would thenceforth increase very much more rapidly than that in the southern part. And if that expectation was reasonable two years ago, it is more reasonable now, because two lines of railway are now being constructed across the northern