Mr. OLIVER. We gave the district of Edmonton 2,500 and Cardston 611.

Mr. LAKE. Does the hon. gentleman know how many votes there were then in those two townships ?

Mr. OLIVER. I know how many were cast in 1905.

Mr. LAKE. There is considerable difference between 1901 and 1905. The Minister of the Interior will admit that there has been a slight change in the number of people living in the Northwest.

Mr. LAMONT. What is the difference between the votes cast in Moosejaw in 1902 and the votes cast in Batoche on this fair redistribution ?

Mr. LAKE. I am not dealing with the Haultain redistribution of 1902. I think the hon. gentleman's cross-examination on that point is entirely irrelevant. I have made the statement that if as fair a redistribution had been made in this case, there would not have been a word said.

Mr. OLIVER. Will the hon. gentleman show how fair that redistribution was ?

Mr. LAKE. If the hon. gentleman will bring up that question later on, if he thinks it relevant to the point at issue, I will have the figures and satisfy him as to the fairness of that redistribution. I was comparing the effect of the various grounds upon which the distribution was made in Alberta if applied to Saskatchewan when I was interrupted. If the distribution had been based on the names on the voters' list there should be only 6¾ seats in the north and 18¼ in the south. If based on the number of schools, or post offices, or local improvement districts or homestead entries, there would be about the same results. We claim also, apart from the fact of this very undue representation being given the north, that the distribution of seats among the various constituencies is exceedingly uneven. Compare, for instance, the district of Humboldt with the district of Maple Creek, each of them very large in area.

Mr. SCOTT. If the hon. gentleman insists upon treating the province in sections—for instance he classes a certain part as north and a certain part as south—does he not think it unfair to make a comparison between a district in the south and a district in the north ? Let him compare districts in the same section or compare the whole south with the whole north. It is not fair to take districts out of the south and compare them with districts in the north.

Mr. LAKE. I can see absolutely nothing unfair in showing the incidence of this redistribution. To compare one district with another and one constituency with another is the only way in which the House can be thoroughly seized of the fact of the distribution under consideration. Compare Humboldt with Maple Creek. Humboldt had 198 votes polled on the 4th November last and has an area of 7,657 square miles. Maple Creek had 846 votes polled and has an area of 20,669 square miles.

Mr. LAMONT. Is that any greater variation than the difference between Batoche and Moosejaw at the last local election, which you say is fair ?

Mr. LAKE. These hon. gentlemen apparently have been brooding over the distribution of 1902 and cannot throw it off.

Mr. LAMONT. You say it was fair.

Mr. LAKE. We will have ample time to consider that redistribution later on, if the Chairman considers it relevant to the question at issue. Batoche had 1,659 votes polled on November 3rd, and its area is 3,746 square miles. Souris had 2,544 votes polled on November 3rd and its area is 3,190 square miles. Let us group a few of these constituencies together and see how it works out. If you take Humboldt, Prince Albert, Prince Albert city, Redberry and Batoche ; the total vote polled in these five amounted to 2,140. They are to have one member each. Compare this with Souris, which, under this distribution, is to return only one member. Souris polled 2,544 votes, over 400 votes more for this one constituency than were cast in these five northern constituencies. With two exceptions, every one of the sixteen southern constituencies polled more votes in the last election than the northern constituencies. The question might well be asked : How comes it that the voter in the south is not considered equal to the voter in the North ?

I find that there has been a radical departure, in the case of the province of Saskatchewan, from the rule laid down by the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Oliver) in regard to the representation of cities. The hon. gentleman was very positive that certain principles ought to be adopted in dealing with rural populations as compared with urban populations. As reported in 'Hansard,' page 8300, the hon. gentleman said :

> Mr. OLIVER. Population is one thing and there are many others. But there is one universal principle and it is that a purely rural population, a population of producers creating wealth in the country is always given a greater share in the government than an equal number of consumers.
>
> Mr. HAGGART. That is so in no place.
>
> Mr. OLIVER. In every place. On what other grounds are the cities of our country so unjustly treated by comparison of population in being under-represented compared with the rural constituencies ?

Later on he said :

> The rule has always been applied throughout the provinces of the Dominion, and it is being applied in the Northwest now, and it would be improper if it were not so applied.