

to give this proposition made by the hon. gentleman from St. Boniface some reasonable consideration. I do not say to grant it, but to take a few hours to think over it, and consider it and see whether they cannot make such a division of the Edmonton district as will satisfy everybody. I do not see why Edmonton should not be divided into two districts, and then let the result be what it may. If it be divided fairly in respect of population and size no one can complain, and I presume that a fair and equitable division would give the people represented by the hon. gentleman from St. Boniface a fair representation in the Local Assembly. I do not say that they are not now getting fair play; but they have no representative in the Assembly, and because of it they claim they have a grievance, and that grievance should be removed. No matter how fairly you are dealing with a class of the people, if those people are not given a chance to be heard they imagine they have a grievance and they will be dissatisfied. It is easier and cheaper to divide this district, and let the Half-breeds have one representative, and be done with it.

HON. MR. MCINNES (B.C.)—Why not divide all the constituencies returning two members for the House of Commons on the same principle?

HON. MR. POWER—As far as I am concerned, I should have no objection.

HON. MR. MCINNES (B.C.)—Here is the city of Ottawa as an example, returning two members, and there are constituencies in British Columbia.

HON. MR. POWER—I think that under the system that has been adopted throughout this Province it is a better way to have only one representative for each district, and if there was any representation on the part of the city of Ottawa that it should be divided into two districts I dare say it would be divided, and I think myself it would be better to have it divided. It would be better to try and remove this sense of injustice. I do not say there is an injustice, but there is a sense of injustice, and if that can be done away with without outraging common sense or fair play it is the duty of the Government to do it.

HON. MR. DEVER—Can we be led to believe that there is any injustice done to these people while they have representatives in the Cabinet? They have three able French representatives in the Cabinet, and three other representatives in the Cabinet who would be in favor of doing these men justice. There are six men who would not certainly stand by and see any injustice done to these people; therefore, I hold that the position taken by the hon. gentlemen who are pressing this matter must be that of mere antagonism to the Government.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—The hon. gentleman from Halifax, who spoke very mildly on the subject and, I think, very sensibly, has reached the conclusion that I expressed to this House two days ago. In relating to the House what had taken place with reference to this proposed amendment I cited, and I repeat it now, that when about ten days ago, for the first time I heard, and my colleagues heard, there was a desire to change the electoral districts in the North-West, I felt, and my colleagues felt, and I said to the hon. gentleman from St. Boniface that it appeared to me that it was a fair proposition to divide Edmonton. I am not prepared to give the same opinion of the proposition that is before us, because it appears to me that that proposition would be inadmissible in its present form. The proposition that this district should be divided into two, and that each division should return a member, appeared to me to be a reasonable one. I said so to this hon. gentleman and I said so to this House, and when I brought it before my colleagues the proposition met with the same reception. It appeared to them fair, and they set about, in the only way they knew how—they requested the Minister who represents the Department peculiarly charged with the interests of the North-West, to ascertain, in the best way he could, on such extraordinary short notice, what would be the feelings of the people on the subject of the division of these two districts, without reference to the eccentric boundaries proposed by my hon. friend from St. Boniface, for the purpose of giving the subject fair consideration. The particular kind of boundary that would be granted was put aside. As I stated the other day, the result of these