

it was necessary for this government to endeavour to throw as many constituencies as they possibly could into the northern and more remote portions of the province of Saskatchewan. As I demonstrated last session, the people in the northern portion or the old district of Saskatchewan are in reality entitled to about six seats, whereas the government gave them nine seats out of the twenty-five. The figures upon which I based my argument were supplied by the government and they proved my contention conclusively and it was a significant fact that neither the Minister of Justice who had charge of the Bill, nor the Prime Minister, nor the Minister of the Interior, undertook to defend the distribution of the constituencies in that province. They left the entire defence of that unjust measure to Mr. Scott, member for West Assiniboia, and to Mr. Lamont, who were to be the principal beneficiaries of it after the government. These two gentlemen certainly defended the measure with a great deal of vigour, but I do not think they impressed any one in this House with the justness of the claims they put forward. The election figures since obtained have completely demonstrated the correctness of our contention and the futility of the arguments of Mr. Scott and Mr. Lamont. It will be remembered that we asked for a commission of judges that they might give us a fair distribution of seats, and that appeal, reasonable and just as it was, was refused by the government. Failing in that appeal I undertook at a small committee meeting of representatives of both sides of the House to propose a distribution of my own, and it is a great satisfaction to me now, after the elections have taken place, to find that the distribution I suggested was soundly conceived. Indeed, in my anxiety to be scrupulously fair to my opponents, I did give more representation to the north than it was really justly entitled to. I contend that if the distribution I had suggested had been followed by the government it would have fallen in to a certain extent with what is, after all, the basic principle upon which our constitutional government is founded, that of representation by population; a principle that was outrageously ignored in the distribution that was made by the government. Just let me point out to the House some of the figures in regard to these constituencies. They are practically the same in proportion as those I gave to the House last year; they are slightly increased but they have the same proportionate increase all through. In the district of Souris in the south, one of the oldest districts in that country which gave a majority of 321 for the provincial rights candidate, there were 3,259 votes cast and the constituency returned one member. Now turn to the north, and that is where the government officials were able to get in their work, away in the back settlements in the remote

north where our people were unable to follow them. We find that Redberry had 515 votes cast, Prince Albert District, 582 votes, Prince Albert city, 618 votes, Batoche, 799 votes. To this I think you might add the district of Humboldt, which, though it went by acclamation, would in all probability have cast the same proportionately larger number of votes that were cast in the other districts which would give it a vote of 261. Each one of these districts got one member, or five members in the north for a total of 2,775 votes, while in the south only one member was given for 3,259 votes, and much the same thing could be said about South Qu'Appelle as I have said about Souris. I suppose this is what the government will call representation by population. There is one thing in regard to the district of Prince Albert which I think ought to be mentioned here, and that is, that there was apparently a regular set plan to capture that district in the way in which it was captured.

Under the territorial election law, there being no voters' lists in the Northwest drawn up it was possible to have additional polling places formed by the returning officer on the application of any individual, on the sworn statement that there were a certain number of voters who were not within a certain radius of a polling place. The polling places in the Prince Albert district were fixed by proclamation, and up to the hour of nomination none except those who were in the secret knew that there were going to be any other polling places. The nomination passed off quietly and then the returning officer, who, if he did allot any other polling places, was bound under the law to give notice to both candidates that he had done so by six o'clock of that day, immediately took a rig and drove out to a country post office thirty-five miles distant, and waited until the mail had gone—it was a two-weekly mail—and then registered a letter before six o'clock notifying the provincial rights candidate that he had placed three other polls away out in the country to the north at points which were unknown to the provincial rights candidate. This notice only reached the provincial rights candidate on the 7th day of December, when it was a physical impossibility in that country for him to get his men out in order to look after those polls. In the meantime he had met the returning officer in the streets of Prince Albert, and they had passed the time of day, and nothing had been said to him in regard to those additional polls; and, when after he had received the registered letter he went to the returning officer and made a complaint, the returning officer said he had complied with the strict letter of the law. That is the story, as I heard it from Mr. Donaldson, the provincial rights candidate himself. Such things as these are very likely to make men rise up and say, we are determined that we will