

HON. MR. PERLEY—I can tell you the reason exactly, if you want to know it. As I stated at the outset, I was two years in the Council with the member representing that district. He is not an educated man; naturally, that class of people have never had the advantages to fit them for public positions, and for that reason the people thought it advisable to make a district, so that they could get a good man to represent them.

HON. MR. POWER—They could import a good man if they wished it. At all events, they could import a schoolmaster, and the character of the representation would improve; so there is no substantial reason against dividing the district. There is a feeling that the Half-breeds are not quite good enough to sit in the same Assembly with the whites—that is all.

HON. MR. PERLEY—No, that is not the fact.

HON. MR. POWER—The hon. gentleman from Calgary objected to this Parliament interfering with the division of the district. It was this Parliament which made the division in the first instance—this Parliament which alone has the authority to make a division—and we are dealing with that very matter now. If any change is to be made, now is the time to make it, and here is the place to do it. Then the hon. gentleman from Calgary told us also that he was familiar with the sentiment of that section, and that there was no dissatisfaction with the existing state of things; but a little later on he admitted that he did not know the sentiment of this particular region. I do not think it at all probable that the Half-breed population of St. Albert, if they did feel dissatisfied with the present state of things, would carry their griefs to the hon. gentleman who lives four hundred miles away from them, and from whom they would not expect a great deal of sympathy. They sent their representations to the hon. gentleman from St. Boniface, who, in a certain sense, represents that element in the whole of the Territories. It has been contended with a good deal of force that these people are represented by members in the House of Commons. In one sense that is true; in another it is not. The point taken here is

that there is a minority, which is a minority in every electoral district, and that minority is not represented. We simply get the voice of the majority under our system: that is the only voice that we can get here directly. I am not going to say that is a defect, but I say the minority are entitled to be heard. If they are enduring what they feel are grievances they have a right to be heard, and we have a right to consider their grievances if it can be shown that they are substantial. Then the hon. gentleman says that they are represented in the Legislative Assembly and have no right to come here. But the very thing that they complain of is that they are not represented in the Legislative Assembly. The complaint is that when we were arranging the divisions in the North-West they were not able to secure representation. If that complaint is well founded, then the answer given by the hon. gentleman from Calgary is not an answer at all. This is one of those questions as to which it is very difficult for a member of this House to say how he ought to vote or feel. I certainly do not think that, with the information before us, we are called upon to make such a division as that proposed by the hon. gentleman from St. Boniface. I believe myself that a division could be made of that Edmonton district which would give one member to each division, and which would probably satisfy people who are said to be dissatisfied: but I think the boundary line should be one less difficult to follow than the one indicated to the committee by the hon. gentleman from St. Boniface. As to the Batoche district, I do not think there is very much in that, because Batoche now only returns one member. It is possible that some slight change in the boundary between Batoche and the adjoining districts might satisfy the Half-breeds there better, but I do not think there is much in that, particularly as the hon. gentleman from Calgary told us that the Half-breed candidate was at the head of the poll. I think it is the duty of the Government to look back at the history of the North-West and at the evils that grew out of our own self-sufficiency when we ourselves supposed we knew everything—to look back at the errors we committed in the past, through ignoring grievances complained of from those Territories. It is therefore the duty of the Government