

philosophic or legal, or in some instances slightly prejudiced because of the home province of the individual who happened to be speaking. May I be allowed to crave the indulgence of the house to go a little further into the north country and deal with a part of our dominion which does not come in the public eye very often unless something extraordinary happens. I refer particularly to that part of Canada known as the Northwest Territories.

There are four constituencies in Saskatchewan which run a long way north; mine happens to be one of them. It runs up to the sixtieth parallel, which is a long way north. Beyond that there is quite a large territory, possibly larger than many of us realize. As a matter of fact, it comprises 42 per cent of the total land area of Canada.

So far as this resolution goes, we are more particularly concerned at the moment with the number of seats which we may or may not get in our own particular province. That huge area of land in the Northwest Territories is represented in this house by just one member, and the people up there feel, and say, that they should have more than one member.

That great area is divided into four districts, namely, the Yukon, which is already represented in this house, the Northwest Territories which, in their turn, are again divided into three large districts, known as Franklin, Keewatin and the Mackenzie district. The Yukon district comprises something over 205,000 square miles. It is the smallest district in the north country. The Franklin district is 546,000 square miles in area; Keewatin, 218,000 and some odd square miles, and the Mackenzie district, 493,000 square miles. The total area of that northwest country is 1,463,593 square miles, or 42 per cent of all the dry land of Canada.

The Yukon has 1,730 square miles of fresh water, Franklin has 7,500 square miles; Keewatin, 9,700 square miles, and the Mackenzie district, 34,265 square miles. These figures are all taken from the Canada Year Book. I am dwelling on this because I want hon. members to realize just how much land there is in that northern part of the world. The area of that territory is twelve times that of the United Kingdom and one-half that of the United States. I repeat, that huge territory is represented by one member, the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Black). According to the Canada Year Book, this member of parliament first took his seat in 1904. In 1940, 2,097 votes were polled out of a possible 4,914. The rest of the territory has a population of some 12,000, but has no representation. The people are now asking for at least one other member, who should represent the Mackenzie district.

A tremendous amount of wealth comes out of that area which we have possibly regarded as being arid, snow-covered and icebound. In 1941, a total of \$9,500,000 was taken from that country in minerals, gold, silver, oil and other minerals, or \$486 per capita. There is only one other province in Canada which approaches this figure, namely, Ontario, with \$551 per capita. In that area they pay a yearly amount of something over \$3,000,000 in salaries and wages. Over \$3,500,000 were taken out in fur in 1943. Only three other provinces in Canada exceeded that figure. There are two huge lakes in that country, the Great Bear and the Great Slave lakes, each of which is half as big again as Lake Ontario. The uranium deposits on the Great Bear lake have given that district world notoriety. It may well be that that area can be and probably is, if we only knew it, the most important district in the whole world to-day, because our information is that there is only one other place where uranium, the metal which is so valuable and so important in the minds of all peoples to-day, can be obtained.

The Northwest Territories are governed by a commissioner, a deputy commissioner and four councillors, who are appointed and who have their seat in Ottawa. These men are assisted by various departments of government, but they do not live in the Northwest Territories, and only occasionally do they get up there. Another significant thing is the fact that the stipendiary magistrate, the chairman of the board of trustees, the dominion land agent, the timber berth agent, the registrar of deeds and the mining recorder are all the same man. The residents of the Mackenzie district are not very happy about this; they feel the time has come for a change, and they certainly believe they should have representation in this house.

Another grievance is that they are taxed—of course everyone has that grievance—but they are not given representation, which is not supposed to be a good idea. They also claim that their exemption is no greater than that in force in other parts of Canada, though their living costs are greatly in excess of costs elsewhere. They say that living costs in the Northwest Territories are anywhere from 75 to 300 per cent higher than in other parts of the dominion. They also complain about fuel. In that country, where there is no wood, of course oil is important. When you get up to about 63 degrees north latitude you get pretty well out of the wooded belt, so that oil becomes of great importance for fuel. My information is that the Canol wells have been closed down. Apparently they now belong