

of any agitation or dissatisfaction prevailing throughout the Territories in respect to any of those divisions. I take it for granted that if there had been any dissatisfaction of such a nature as hon. gentlemen could place in a tangible shape they would have submitted it to this House. We know it is a very easy matter, if the public generally are dissatisfied with some particular mode of government or some injustice which they think they labor under, to present petitions, not only from representative men but from the mass of the people, setting forth the abuses under which they consider they labor, but this has not been done in this case. Has any case been made out to this honorable House why any change should take place in reference to this particular matter? I submit there has not, and I say further that it would create the greatest dissatisfaction and would be reprobated by the people of the Territories and by those representative men who represent the whole of the Territories in the North-West Council if this Parliament, without any such mode of expression as that which I have referred to, by petition or otherwise, should undertake to interfere with those divisions which had been established after such careful and deliberate consideration.

HON. MR. POWER—Would the hon. gentleman be kind enough to indicate what serious objection there could be to divide the district of Edmonton into two districts?

HON. MR. LOUGHEED—Yes; I will have pleasure in stating them. The representatives of the North-West Territories, upon the proposition of the hon. gentleman from St. Boniface being made known, objected—

HON. MR. POWER—I do not refer to the division which the hon. gentleman from St. Boniface proposes—I say any division.

HON. MR. LOUGHEED—There was the greatest dissatisfaction expressed by those in a representative capacity at this Parliament interfering with the divisions in the manner proposed, and that is the only way of ascertaining public opinion, namely, the views of those elected to represent the people. If those men cannot express public opinion I for one am not aware of how we can obtain an opinion

that we can rely upon. I refer to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, to Mr. Oliver, who represents that constituency in the Local Assembly—these men have expressed themselves unhesitatingly against the proposed division of the hon. gentleman from St. Boniface. And now permit me to say further that if the hon. gentleman from St. Boniface is right in the figures submitted by him as to the number of French voters, there is nothing to prevent those people who desire to have special representation in the North-West Assembly from electing two representatives from that district. So far as my memory now serves me, there were not more than about 800 votes polled for each of those gentlemen at the last Local Assembly elections, and if those 800 votes are controlled by that particular race referred to by the hon. gentleman there is nothing to prevent them having a greater advantage than he proposes—namely, the advantage of selecting two members for that particular constituency. I would also say, with reference to Batoche, that the French Half-breeds there are sufficiently numerous to elect a representative of their own. At the last election for the North-West Assembly the French Half-breed who represented his race in the contest in Batoche was, I am informed, placed at the head of the polls, but owing to a French Canadian returning officer declaring that he was not duly elected, owing to some technical difficulty, he was therefore declared not elected. This fact proves in itself that the French Half-breeds in that constituency are sufficiently numerous to place their candidate at the head of the poll. Therefore, under the circumstances it is not justifiable, but entirely indefensible, that this step should be taken as proposed by the hon. gentleman. Furthermore, I assert that if such a step were taken it would create not only great dissatisfaction, but a sense of insecurity among the members of the Legislative Assembly if their electoral districts are to be carved up at the instance of every whim and caprice that may seize some few dissatisfied individuals. Permit me to say, in answer to the question asked by some hon. gentlemen, and particularly the hon. member from Mille Isles that the reason that two of the constituencies in the North-West are allowed to return two