

Mr. SCOTT. Will my hon. friend (Mr. Lake) permit me to point out that if he will calculate the result of that redistribution upon the basis of the most recent vote in the Territories at the previous federal election, as we are compelled to some extent to do in this case, he will find a very great disparity. Saskatchewan was given 6 seats, and the old Assiniboia 15 seats, while the vote polled the previous November showed 11,857 for Assiniboia as against 2,529 for Saskatchewan, being an average in Assiniboia of 790 votes for each member as against only 420 in Saskatchewan. This will tend to show to the committee what an insecure basis we are obliged under present circumstances to go upon.

Mr. LAKE. The hon. gentleman is referring to the votes polled?

Mr. SCOTT. The votes polled in 1900.

Mr. LAKE. That is the basis the Minister of the Interior took for the distribution he has given in both of these Bills.

Mr. SCOTT. Not absolutely.

Mr. LAKE. I quoted the Minister of the Interior's own remarks, which I think were pretty absolute in regard to that matter. That was the first basis of distribution. He said: 'The basis of the division of the constituencies was necessarily the vote cast; it was the latest and most accurate estimate we could get.' In another place he said: 'The definite division of the constituencies is based on the vote actually polled on the 3rd of November.' The hon. member for Saskatchewan made a very long argument in regard to north and south, as he would make the division. I do not propose to follow him into that question. He makes a very arbitrary division when he brings one of his northern constituencies apparently down to the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway. I think that will be sufficient for any one acquainted with that country to estimate the value of the hon. gentleman's remarks in that respect. Then, in endeavouring to prove from the homestead entries what a very large population had gone into the north, he took an all-round estimate that three would be about the proportion of individuals who would go with each homestead entry. When he endeavoured to apply this principle to the absolute statement of the hon. member for Humboldt (Mr. Adamson) as to the population in that constituency, he found that it fell short of the estimate made by the hon. member for Humboldt. In order to make up for this deficiency, he immediately said this was outside of the numbers who had gone into the towns which were springing up all along the line. Once he departs from that general basis of three to every homestead entry, his whole argument falls to the ground; because I contend that he cannot compare an entirely new country, which is being opened

Mr. LAKE.

up for the first time, and in which every man who goes into it for business purposes or any other purposes, immediately makes a homestead entry with the older settled portions of the country, such as the Indian Head district, which has been referred to, in which every bit of vacant land has for years been taken up, and into which great numbers of new population have been coming. There people who go in to farm, being unable to find homesteads, buy lands. Then, an immense number of labourers go in to work, and business men to carry on business in the towns; and these have no opportunity of finding homesteads. So that it is absurd to take for granted generally that for every homestead entry in a particular district, three people have come into that district. Certainly three people would be no fair estimate in the older districts; probably four would be nearer the mark; whereas in the newer districts probably every other person who comes in makes a homestead entry. As I said when the hon. member for Saskatchewan was speaking, his verbal description of the distribution which I submitted to the committee was an absolutely incorrect one. I do not think I need go any further. Any one who chooses to look at that map and compare it with his statements as they appear in 'Hansard' will find that he has not correctly described the constituencies which he undertook to criticise; so that I do not think I need follow his remarks in that respect.

Mr. LAMONT. Will my hon. friend state what the inaccuracy in my description was?

Mr. LAKE. He said I left the district of Redberry as it was.

Mr. LAMONT. I did not say that. I said that the hon. gentleman had made the district of Redberry, and had added to it Battleford.

Mr. LAKE. The hon. gentleman also said that I added Humboldt to Batoche. I did not add the whole of Humboldt to Batoche. The hon. gentleman, perhaps unintentionally, did not give a fair description of those constituencies. My hon. friend from Western Assiniboia proposed to cut up four constituencies in Eastern Assiniboia—Moosomin, Whitewood, Grenfell and Wolseley--and make three of them, and he compared that proposal with the alternative suggestion I made on the spur of the moment, to the disadvantage of that suggestion. The hon. gentleman's proposal would work out on the basis of numbers on the voters' lists as follows: Moosomin, 2,282; Broadview, 2,280; Wolseley, 1,850. These are figures which I took from the figures at my disposal. The average of these four constituencies, as I have stated before, is already above the average throughout the whole province of Saskatchewan. I suggest that we should take the three constituencies around Regina, which are considerably below that average,