the average voting population which the whole of the province has as obtained by the even distribution of the voting population of the province into 25 different seats. I find that the average number of names on the voters' lists in these districts is 1,554, while the average for the whole of the province would be 1,529. I suggested as an alternative, provided there was a positive refusal to grant the extra seat from the northern portion of the province where I consider it should come from, that the three Regina seats should be altered as regards their area and that one of the seats, the south Regina seat, or a portion of it, should be given to the Soo line. I found that the three Regina seats, Lumsden or North Regina, Regina city and South Regina, on the average had only 1,344 voters on the voters' list, and I thought that the adoption of my suggestion would be a proper way of finding an additional constituency to provide for the people along the Soo line, who, I think, are justly entitled to have a representative of their own. They have forwarded to me a copy of a resolution, which they have also forwarded to the hon. member for West Assiniboia and the hon. Minister of the Interior, on the subject. During the discussion which took place in this committee I submitted a tentative suggestion of my own showing how the constituencies might be divided up in the new provinces in such a way as to give a fairly even distribution of votes to each constituency. I did this for the purpose of demonstrating that it was possible to make a comparatively even distribution, a distribution based on existing conditions, that is to say, by preserving as far as possible the constituencies as they exist at the present time and giving additional representation where the additional population and the additional number of votes on the list appear to demand. This distribution which accounted for seven seats in the northern portion of the district and eighteen seats in the southern portion, even then gave an advantage of 8 per cent to the northern constituencies. The suggestion was, of course, purely tentative; it was drawn up after a pretty close examination of the vote that was polled and was marked on the map which I had in my possession, but without any very prolonged consideration of the matter. On the whole, I think it met the purpose fairly well, and I believe it could have been made into a very good distribution indeed if the committee had discussed the details and had made alterations here and there where the local conditions would appear to demand them. Although I left the map with the constituencies marked in it and the figures showing the vote of each constituency with the Liberal members of that committee, I have heard nothing more on the subject from them since; it appears to have been ignored. I would like to put on record the constituencies which I proposed, the area of each and the number of voters in each according to the lists, as near as I

Mr. LAKE.

could estimate. I first proposed to divide the present constituency of Souris into two constituencies, one of which, the old district of Souris, would have 1,684 voters on the list and an area of 1,188 square miles. The second constituency—to be named as the committee might decide—would have 1,593 voters on the lists.

Mr. SCOTT. Would the hon. gentleman say how many votes were cast last fall in the proposed district of Souris?

Mr. LAKE. It was absolutely impossible to say how many votes were cast in any of these constituencies; the government may be able to find that out by some method unknown to me.

Mr. SCOTT. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Lake) took the responsibility of preparing a map based entirely on the vote polled last fall. He has contended strongly that the vote cast last fall, and that alone, was the proper basis for this distribution.

Mr. LAKE. I have never contended it was the proper basis. I have said it was not the proper basis on every occasion I have had an opportunity of speaking on this question.

Mr. SCOTT. Was not that the plan on which my hon. friend prepared the map?

Mr. LAKE. Certainly not; it was based on the number of voters on the lists. How is it possible for any one to say how many votes were cast in each of these districts? It constantly happens that a polling division which was created for the purpose of the Dominion election lies in two different local constituencies. We could tell exactly how many voters there were on the lists in each of these constituencies, but it is practically impossible to tell how many of them cast votes unless you get at the returning officer's book, which, I believe, is under seal in the hands of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery. I do not know if that is the way in which the government have got at the figures they have submitted; I have taken the figures of the government all through, not that I think they are absolutely reliable, but at all events sufficiently so to enable one to make a comparison. I said that the second constituency into which the old constituency of Souris is divided would have 1,593 voters on the list and 1,836 square miles. A part of Cannington would also go to a new constituency, which would take in the Regina-Arcola branch, from Arcola some little distance westward. Cannington would have 1,460 voters on the list and an area of 1,332 square miles. The other Cannington constituency would have 1,456 voters on the list and 2,340 square miles of area. The old district of Moosomin would have 1,895 voters on the list and an area of 1,165 square miles; Whitewood would have 1,357 voters on the list and an area of 1,335 square miles; Grenfell would