

large and small, into limited sections for the purpose of taking the census. So much so is this done that in Victoria they give you the population by wards. Esquimalt and Cariboo, and counties in the East are divided into small districts, but when you come to New Westminster there are only three districts, New Westminster, New Westminster City, and Vancouver. Neither New Westminster nor Vancouver is separated into wards as is Victoria. New Westminster district is evenly divided into three ward sections, and we cannot find out how the population is distributed. As regards this particular portion of the Province there has not been the attention to details there certainly ought to have been.

Idle to Speculate; Facts Must be Proved.

It is perfectly idle to speculate how Mr. Lowe reached the figures he did. If you could demonstrate to a unit the way in which he arrived at his mistake there would still not be satisfaction. What you want is something you can show that will justify the action taken in this matter.

Mr. Brown's Argument a Justification of the Government.

Argument such as that used by Mr. Brown, Mr. Cotton and others, showing how absurd these Dominion returns are is merely the strongest kind of justification of the Government's action.

Reasons for Delaying Redistribution.

All that the Government have ever contended is that there is something radically wrong about these returns, and it is for the purpose of setting these wrongs right that they have delayed the matter of redistribution. There can be an early session next year and then a Redistribution bill will be brought down, based principally, so far as Mainland and Island is concerned, upon the population.

They tell us that "at the last general election seven constituencies, registering 12,691 voters, returned only four members as supporters of the Government, while 11 small constituencies, having 2,869 voters, returned 16 Government supporters, and one of the four Government supporters elected by a large constituency having resigned before the meeting of the House, his place was supplied by an opponent of the Government," and so on.

Cities Not to Have All the Representation,

Now, this inaccurate data boiled down means this, that the cities where you find the centres of population should have almost the entire representation. If that is what these petitioners are contending for, I may tell you that no such representation would be permitted in any country under British rule. You have got to give outlying districts representation. It is a very nice thing in the abstract to have "one man

one vote." That is all right when you apply it to the city, but outside of the city you are in a different position altogether; and I think you will say that is the rule adopted elsewhere. Take Toronto for instance. Put the population of Ontario down at not quite 2,250,000. Toronto has nearly 200,000 inhabitants, but has only three representatives in the Provincial Legislature. If Toronto were to return one-tenth, she would get more than ten members. So the city of Ottawa, with a large population, returns one member; as does Hamilton. The same rule applies to Montreal, Quebec, London, and all other Eastern cities. They are not treated according to population as between themselves and outlying districts, but there is a general distribution of the representation made, bearing in mind the equities and rights of the whole. It is not just that a man who has a farm, upon which he has brought up his family and spent all his money, time and labor, should have no more to say as regards political matters than the first man you meet on the streets in a crowded city; and no just man would contend for such redistribution as that. (Applause) Now, having said what I have to say on this subject, I shall proceed to deal with the question of the Government buildings in Victoria.

New Parliament Buildings.

It has been said that I would not find it so easy to defend the action of the Government in this connection. I should not have said anything about it, but I believe in "taking the bull by the horns" in all cases—(applause and uproar)—and if contrary to my expectations I were prevented from getting a hearing, every fair-minded man could only come to the conclusion that if the Premier of the country in attempting to explain the policy of his Government is hooted down, the people do not want to hear the truth. I am perfectly independent in this matter. I came here desiring to get a fair hearing, and I expect to get it. (A voice, Go on, go on.)

Now we are told that, "whilst protesting its inability to meet the demands of all sections of the Province for larger expenditures on works of development," the Government has taken power to borrow \$600,000 to meet the first estimate of the cost of public buildings. This exaggerated way of putting it infers there are large sums to be expended afterwards. I can only repeat the assurance that there is no such intention. The contract has to be given for the work, and we do not expect the country to justify the expenditure of any sum exceeding \$600,000. Public buildings were required, and had to be erected somewhere; and if erected at Chilliwack, or Vancouver, I suppose we would not have heard very much complaint. If you go into the old buildings now you will find that the roof of the Legislative Assembly hall is leaking. I was in there the other day, after a rainstorm, and there was a pool