

pleased that the government saw fit to propose a reduction of three seats for Saskatchewan instead of five; at the same time I realize what a difficult problem this created in rearranging the constituencies in Saskatchewan.

I have no objection to the new constituency for the Mackenzie district. It is being created because of the immense potential value of that great area and not for any reason of population. This is somewhat different from the situation in the Yukon, where I understand the territory is settled only in a few localities.

An important province like Saskatchewan, with its immense area and sparse population, should be treated with as much consideration as possible. I do not need to remind honourable members of the fact that Saskatchewan is creating wealth of untold value that flows into the general stream of the development of Canada. We all know the main causes of our loss of population in that province. In addition to our young men and women who enlisted in the war, large numbers were attracted to war industries in Quebec and Ontario. And of course for a long time now there has been a growing trend towards the use of large machines, huge combines, on the farm, and this equipment has made it possible for one man to operate a farm which formerly would have kept a number of men busy. As a result of irrigation, and the considerable development in mining and in oil and gas wells which now seems assured in the north, the trend to over-large farms may possibly be halted. I think our province generally will be in a healthier position if this happens. After all, the backbone of the nation is a secure farm home, where enough can be produced to raise a family in comfort; and I have no doubt that there is room for a very large increase in Saskatchewan's population on that basis.

The bill before us reminds me of a book that I read with interest long before I ever thought of entering this chamber—a book which no doubt many honourable senators have read. It was entitled "Getting into Parliament and After," and was written by George W. Ross, who himself later became a senator. He was teaching school in Ontario for a salary of \$250 or \$300 a year when he got the idea of contesting a seat in the House of Commons. It is perhaps fair to say that the greatest row that this country ever had about redistribution was when Sir John Macdonald was accused of "hiving the Grits." In his book Mr. Ross tells how he afterwards learned that, prior to the election campaign in which the famous row broke out,

his opponent in a central Ontario constituency interviewed Sir John and begged him to take a few townships off one side of the constituency and add a few on the other side; but Sir John's reply to this suggestion was: "You can take a few townships off here and add a few there, but that little devil Ross will beat you, anyway, so we might just as well leave the constituency as it is."

As stated by the acting leader (Hon. Mr. Hugessen), redistribution is a matter that does not concern the Senate as much as it does the House of Commons. However, we perhaps should be concerned to see that the constituencies are arranged for the convenience of the public, and not for any candidates in particular. I have not studied the schedules in detail. So far as my own local town is concerned, all I can say is that we have been in the constituency of Prince Albert, and in Battleford, and back in Prince Albert, until it has become difficult to know where our people should vote. The main consideration when a redistribution bill is being drafted should be the convenience of the voters in all constituencies. In so far as this bill fails in that respect, the government will be taking the responsibility for the failure.

Honourable senators, these are all the remarks I wish to make at this time.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the second time.

#### THIRD READING

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read the third time?

**Hon. Mr. Hugessen:** With leave of the Senate, now.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the third time, and passed.

#### SENATOR'S ATTENDANCE

##### PRIVILEGE

**Hon. Mr. Duffus:** Honourable senators, on a question of privilege: while it is against my disposition to find fault, and I believe it can be said that during the past number of years I have been about as regularly in attendance at this house as anyone, I wish to warn the deputy leader of the government (Hon. Mr. Hugessen) and all other honourable members that I shall have to be home on the Twelfth of July to participate in celebrations there.

**Some Hon. Senators:** Oh, oh.

**Hon. Mr. Duffus:** I have been wondering if it would not be a good thing to send the other house a reminder to that effect.