

and supported north of the North Saskatchewan river. A great work has been done in that connection. North Battleford has played an important part in the development of highways in every direction throughout that area. Then telephone, telegraph, postal and air services have had to be carefully considered. Throughout the years all these services have grown and grown into greater importance. I believe practically every elector in that part of the country will say that the leading part taken by the citizens of North Battleford in providing all these services has been most helpful, and without such help very much of this essential pioneering work might not have been done.

In addition to all these accomplishments North Battleford has been one of the pioneer centres in western Canada in the building up of a live stock organization. Years ago when wheat growing was claiming the attention of other awakening parts of western Canada the citizens of North Battleford took an active part in initiating a movement of placing live stock on the land, hither and thither throughout the country, with the result that to-day the effects of that movement can be seen in more ways than one. Facilities of one kind and another and municipalities have grown up, towns and villages have developed, rural districts have come into being. Further, all these districts, centres, municipalities and services are linked one way or another with the population of North Battleford.

To take North Battleford out of that area, out of these surroundings, out of its environment, and place it in a district by no means as closely connected or associated with it, is I think very unwise. If the government or the Prime Minister could do anything in the way of preventing a mistake of that kind, I feel satisfied the people of North Battleford and the surrounding country would respond to such an act of generosity which under the circumstances is nothing more than justice. I am not speaking politically at all; I am speaking for the city of North Battleford and the miles and miles of country beyond it. I realize I am on fundamental ground in saying that what is being done in this bill is not fair, and the sooner it is corrected the better.

Now I might go south of the river and show that around the towns of Battleford, Wilkie, Unity, and Lloydminster and other centres in that great south country similar developments have taken place. But these developments are south of the North Saskatchewan river, and they have been largely tributary to the towns I have mentioned.

Much of the lower part of this territory is much more tributary to Saskatoon than to North Battleford. Into that southern area, some parts of which will be one hundred miles from the city of North Battleford, you are throwing North Battleford, and taking it out of its natural setting. This I am sure is a vital mistake. It can however be readily corrected without interfering politically with the map which my hon. friend from Regina (Mr. Turnbull) has made. I would say that anything the government can do ought to be done and done at once. I realize that the government is in power. I realize that my own party is out of power. I am not complaining about that. What I am asking for is fair play for the city of North Battleford, the people back of it, in a word justice to all concerned. I am satisfied that if the government would give a little thought to the problem the adjustments desired are very easy to make, if there is a disposition to make them.

The electoral history of Saskatchewan, especially northwestern Saskatchewan, is to a large extent linked up with the Battlefords. That is one reason why I do not like to see the names North Battleford and South Battleford disappear from the electoral map of Canada. I think this would be a blunder. In 1887 the northwest territories were given four seats; the two Assiniboias, Alberta and Saskatchewan. In 1902 the representation was increased to six; Assiniboia East, Assiniboia West, Mackenzie, Humboldt, Qu'Appelle, and Saskatchewan. In 1907 we had ten constituencies; Assiniboia, Battleford, Mackenzie, Humboldt, Prince Albert, Regina, Saskatoon, Moose Jaw, Qu'Appelle and Saltcoats. In 1914, following the census of 1911, when the hon. Prime Minister was a member of the redistribution committee in the government of Sir Robert Borden, the present Prime Minister himself established these two outstanding names. It was decided in 1914 there should be a South Battleford and a North Battleford. Ever since 1914 these names have been on the electoral map of Canada. In 1924 under Liberal rule there was a redistribution and these two names remained unaltered.

I have a map here showing the outline of the constituency of North Battleford as it was in 1914. To the north it is bounded by the Northwest Territories, to the west by the Alberta boundary, to the south by the North Saskatchewan river, and from a southerly point easterly by the adjoining constituency of Prince Albert. In 1924 when the redistribution took place under the Liberal government