

river and the river itself at the Battlefords is easily two miles wide. That natural boundary line is perhaps as clear cut as any in western Canada. As a result of this, north of the North Saskatchewan river, a great community has grown up in the last twenty-four or twenty-five years, a community stretching from the city of North Battleford and the North Saskatchewan river northward over one hundred and fifty miles, westward to the Alberta boundary, and eastward to the same river a short distance from Saskatoon. It is a great developing community. And it is equalled by another great community which has developed south of the Saskatchewan river, a community including the old town of Battleford, the towns of Wilkie, Unity and Lloydminster. In the present redistribution measure practically one-quarter of the old North Battleford riding has been taken and thrown in with three-quarters of the old South Battleford riding. Notwithstanding the fact that North Battleford is a city and Battleford is a town, only one-quarter of the area north of the river has been added to three-quarters of the territory south of the river to make the new constituency known as the Battlefords.

May I draw the attention of the Prime Minister to the fact that in the campaign of 1930, which was based on the redistribution of 1924, the North Battleford federal riding gave a Liberal majority of approximately 1,100. In balancing up the votes cast in the 1930 election I find that under the new riding drawn up by the hon. member for Regina, instead of giving a Liberal majority of 1,100 votes the majority will be turned around to practically the same number of votes in the other direction. In other words, on the 1930 election date, there would be a majority of about 900 against a Liberal candidate. That is the result of the redistribution that has taken place. I ask the hon. member for Regina (Mr. Turnbull) the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) and any other hon. member whether or not that is a fair distribution. Further than that, I do not believe any such change has taken place in the constituency the Prime Minister represents, namely that of West Calgary. I am quite satisfied there has been no such change in the constituency represented by the hon. member for Regina.

Mr. TURNBULL: My hon. friend's figures are very much exaggerated.

Mr. McINTOSH: Which figures?

Mr. TURNBULL: About the change in voting strength of the new constituency of Battlefords.

[Mr. McIntosh.]

Mr. McINTOSH: These are figures that I have worked out. What figures have you?

Mr. TURNBULL: My figures are very different from those.

Mr. McINTOSH: I prepared my figures correctly from the last records. If the hon. member has anything different I should like to have them, but I believe he will find I am substantially correct. They were taken from the poll records for 1930, and I do not think there has been any mistake in adding them. North of the North Saskatchewan river, that great natural boundary—

Mr. VALLANCE: I suggest that the hon. member for Regina is counting the three-cornered fight in South Battleford, and adding the farmers and Grits jointly as against the Conservative vote.

Mr. TURNBULL: No, I have taken the figures only for Liberals and Conservatives. I left the third party out of my calculations.

Mr. McINTOSH: I am satisfied if the hon. member for Regina has done that he will find that his figures, not mine, are out of range or wrong.

I have stated that north of the North Saskatchewan river in the last twenty-four or twenty-five years a great settlement has grown up. North Battleford, as a young and ambitious city, is intimately associated or connected with that settlement, that is with all that expanding northern country. In fact for over a quarter of a century it has taken a leading and magnanimous part in its attempt to build up facilities of one kind and another for the development of this fine fertile belt of territory. Its distinctly unselfish aim was always to give this district an impetus to help it in years to come. The work of railroading this north land in the last twenty-five years has been a prodigious job. North Battleford has taken a prominent part in trying to provide this vast territory with adequate railway facilities, and its task is not yet completed and will not be for years.

The argument may be urged, "Well, although you are changing the constituency electorally, you are not destroying its associations." I say you are doing just about as much as could be done to destroy those associations, putting in a wedge as it were between the city and "The North". In my view there is no reason for taking North Battleford away from its surrounding territory and putting it into a new territory only part of which can be said to be connected with it. The building of highways alone has been another important matter that has had to be directed