

and if my hon. friend from Regina wants any importance attached to his statement that Qu'Appelle constituency is shaped as it is because of the natural boundary of the Qu'Appelle valley, then I say that applying the same reasoning to the constituencies of North Battleford and South Battleford as they are at the present time, there is a greater reason why this map should be changed before this committee rises.

The other evening when the Prime Minister spoke he seemed to be disposed to make a change in the two Battleford constituencies. The present proposal is to have one constituency known as the Battlefords and another called Redberry. The Prime Minister said that there might be some difficulty in that it might be necessary to change the boundary between the Battlefords and the constituency of Kindersley. I think the Prime Minister has a map before him, and if he will look at it he will see that there is no need to change that line at all, that Kindersley can be left exactly as it is.

May I also call the attention of the committee to the fact that not only is the Saskatchewan river in so far as the two towns of Battleford are concerned a natural boundary, but if the Prime Minister will look at the south end of the Redberry constituency as now proposed, he will find that there is a piece of the Redberry constituency south of the North Saskatchewan river, and I am informed that in that piece of territory between the Rosetown constituency and the North Saskatchewan river there are some 4,000 people. There was only one crossing at that time so far as I know, and that is the bridge at the elbow. There may have been more put in within recent years, but the last time I was there, a few years ago, there was just one crossing. That forms the natural boundary between the south end of Redberry constituency and the north end. That part could very easily be put into the Battleford constituency because it is closer to South Battleford than to Redberry. The old Saskatoon-Battleford trail passed through that territory, and the people immediately south of the north Saskatchewan river are more interested in South Battleford than they are in Redberry. A change could very well be made there so as to restore the city of North Battleford to the old constituency of North Battleford.

There is another possibility. If the Prime Minister will look at the map before him he will see that he can take the townships in the range immediately north of North Battleford and going north for five or six townships

make the change there very easily and substitute on the north side of the proposed Battlefords constituency a range of townships there which would probably equalize the population. I think that the people living in that area would appreciate that change very much. I do not speak of this matter with any heat or for any particular reason of my own, but merely because I happen to know that part of the country, and I think that as it stands at the present time the bill proposes a ridiculous situation which I am sure the government when it is acquainted with the facts will recognize.

Mr. McINTOSH: Mr. Chairman, I spoke briefly once before on what is being foolishly done in connection with the redistribution of North Battleford and South Battleford, and perhaps I should say something this afternoon. The Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) stated to-day that man after man from Saskatchewan made the statement in the committee room when the general redistribution committee met that if the constituency of Melville were fixed up everything would be satisfactory.

Mr. BENNETT: I did not say in the committee room. I said they had urged upon the government.

Mr. McINTOSH: I beg pardon, that they had urged that upon the government. All I know, and I want to be as fair as possible as I know the Prime Minister himself wants to be fair, is that two members from Saskatchewan made that statement, and no other member from Saskatchewan, so far as I know, made it. So far as I am concerned I asked that something be done to rectify the situation in Melville, but I concluded what I had to say by drawing the attention of the hon. member for Regina (Mr. Turnbull) to the absolutely ridiculous position of the Battlefords. I said there was a general feeling that something should be done to rectify the blunder committed in the Battleford seats.

This afternoon I am asking for a proper redistribution of these two seats. I am not necessarily making an appeal for myself; I am not thinking of doing that. Nor am I making an appeal for the Liberal party or any other party. I am trying to make as plain as possible that which in my view ought to be done to redistribute fairly the population north and south of the North Saskatchewan river which separates the two Battlefords. It is a question of recognizing that the boundary line in existence is a marked type of boundary. The gully formed by the