

Redistribution

area that has always been in Prince Albert constituency from the earliest days in the 1880's, and added it to Meadow Lake.

No member of parliament, even though he had twice the energy of the present member, would be able to cover the new constituency of Meadow Lake. Why not add on Big River to Shellbrook and Parkside, adjacent to Prince Albert, and put them all in Prince Albert where they have always been? That would not reduce the population of Meadow Lake to any extent.

The additions that are made do not concern me, but these people have the right to be considered when they are to be placed in a constituency in which they have no comradeship or interest. These people deal in Prince Albert. They have been there for generations, but now they are bodily cut off and put into a constituency several hundred miles long, far removed from that community of interest that should justify their inclusion.

I might mention the historic nature of Prince Albert. I am not here for the purpose of advertising my constituency. I did that in my maiden speech, Mr. Speaker, my second maiden speech in 1953, but we are the only constituency in Canada that has ever been represented by three prime ministers.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Diefenbaker: That is an unusual circumstance. It just shows that there must be a particular attraction to the area because Wilfrid Laurier, as he then was in 1896, became member for Prince Albert. Incidentally, we are having a school named after him in the city so that in 1967 it will be remembered that he was our member. He was also elected for Quebec East. In those days leaders used to run in two, three, or even more constituencies, and when they got elected in them all they sorted out the one they finally remained in. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, as he subsequently became, remained in the province of Quebec, and understandably so.

Then we had Right Hon. Mackenzie King. He came to Prince Albert in 1926. He was a stranger and he took us in. I am one of those who met defeat at his hands in 1926, and he represented us for a long period of years. Both in 1896 and 1925, when Mr. King came to Prince Albert, the area to which I refer contiguous to Prince Albert, was in that constituency.

It is immaterial to me so far as votes are concerned. It is not a question of that at all [Mr. Diefenbaker.]

because, sir, without boasting, having received 66 per cent of the vote in 1965 that is not the kind of a percentage that causes a member to be too fearful if he looks after his constituency. But, sir, this area should be in Prince Albert.

Now I come to another area north of Prince Albert. I understand you are quite a fisherman, Mr. Speaker, no one from your constituency could be other than that. But one of the finest fishing areas in all Canada is at Lac la Ronge. It is joined to Prince Albert by road, but not to any part of Meadow Lake by road. Lac la Ronge does all its business in Prince Albert, but it is to be taken bodily out of the constituency and added to Mackenzie constituency, to which it has no relationship or no continuity or community of interest. These changes that I advocate will not affect the map in any way but they will bring a degree of reason and logic to it which otherwise will not be there.

The hon. member for Qu'Appelle has dealt with the other constituencies and I am not going to repeat the arguments he has advanced. But I come back to the point I made earlier. The cities should have their own constituencies. That was the basic principle that was made clear by Mr. Castonguay. But in the province of Saskatchewan they departed from that. Why? I do not know what the reasons were.

As the hon. member for Qu'Appelle has pointed out, the mathematical manner in which the division has been made is amazing. There is a surprising equality. There are the rural seats. I have mentioned Meadow Lake and Mackenzie. There is no member living who can cover all those constituencies if he carries out his responsibilities in parliament. It was never intended that a map should be designed on a mathematical basis with no regard to topography, to past associations and to historic relationships.

The hon. member for Qu'Appelle mentioned Fort Carlton. There is no more historic place in Canada than Fort Carlton. He mentioned that there were some areas in eastern Canada, in the province of Quebec and in the maritimes, where there was a deep loyalty to them.

● (4:20 p.m.)

Fort Carlton was not in existence when we went west, but my father taught in that area. Fort Carlton is one of the earliest settlements in western Canada, and it has always been associated with Prince Albert. It is now to