

*Redistribution*

that number to 72,000, you still have a constituency much smaller than 17 city constituencies in Ontario, and substantially smaller than the constituencies in the city of Winnipeg.

I wish to make it clear that this is a mistake from every point of view. It is a mistake from the point of view of the satisfaction due to the people who reside in the city area taken away from the city of Regina, because while the area has not been heretofore in the constituency of Regina, it is now legally a part of the city of Regina. I think that is the worst mistake that has been made in Saskatchewan.

Then, the boundaries of my own constituency are greatly enlarged, so that when I return to that constituency I shall have an area to cover almost twice the extent of the original constituency which sent me to this House of Commons in 1935. I shall be happy to have the opportunity to run again for that constituency, if its electors desire that I should do so. I am happy that the name has been retained. In that respect I am glad that no change in name at least has been made, although the boundaries of the constituency have been greatly enlarged.

When I hear some of my maritime friends talking about coast line, I look at the map and see that my constituency is cut diagonally in two pieces by the Saskatchewan river, which is impassable in several instances for more than a hundred miles. How I am going to get across it, except by journeying down from Saskatoon to Regina or to Moose Jaw, I really do not know. But it will be done. I shall endeavour to serve the new part of the constituency as I have tried to serve the old part. I am told by the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner) that all this is because it was decided to leave Rosetown-Biggar in the map of the province.

**Mr. Gardiner:** Not all of it.

**Mr. Coldwell:** That was a consideration which apparently I shared with the leaders of the other parties in this house.

**Mr. Laing:** What would have happened if Saskatchewan had lost five seats?

**Mr. Coldwell:** Then my constituency probably would have been still larger and in all probability the method of approach in the province of Saskatchewan would have had to be substantially different. Apart from the feeling that I have of disagreement with the manner in which this redistribution has been done, I think the people of Saskatchewan appreciate that we have lost only three constituencies instead of the five we might have lost. All of us from Saskatchewan are ready

[Mr. Coldwell.]

to express to members of the house from other parts of Canada the appreciation we feel of what was done in that regard.

But I think reconsideration should be given to this matter. I have held the view and have expressed it over and over again, both inside and outside the house, that redistribution should have been done by an impartial commission. I listened to Mr. Churchill's criticism of the bill in that house which was read into the record yesterday, but I remember that in that same debate the members of the government, of the Labour party, contended that the report of the commission was favourable to the Conservative opposition. As a matter of fact, an analysis of the results indicates that the contention of the government party was substantially correct because while the present Conservative government of Great Britain won a majority of the seats they succeeded in getting only a minority of the votes.

As the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) said yesterday, I presume that no matter what commission was set up, no matter what report was made, no matter what bill was introduced, opposition members probably would feel that they should criticize what had been done. In this case I think the opposition—I include all opposition groups—can be relieved of any suggestion that we have been doing this. I think with the redistribution that has been made so far as Saskatchewan is concerned as well as other provinces and other constituencies—I am thinking of Annapolis-Kings for one—there is legitimate criticism of what has happened. Be that as it may, I think we should support the motion made by the leader of the opposition (Mr. Drew) and give this matter further consideration. In the meantime the government should be asked again to set up a commission which this house and the country can regard as impartial.

**Mr. Speaker:** I have permitted the leader of the opposition (Mr. Drew) and the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggar (Mr. Coldwell) to refer to the commission, but I think there has been sufficient reference to that subject on the motion for third reading. May I ask hon. members who are to speak to discuss only the matters contained in the bill.

**Mr. Donald M. Fleming (Eglinton):** Mr. Speaker, there are a few remarks I should like to make as the seconder of the motion now under debate. In what I have to say I propose to confine myself entirely to what happened yesterday and to make a general summation of the situation.

The redistribution bill which has now reached the stage of third reading cannot by