

very well be put into the constituency of the Battlefords. It lies south of the North Saskatchewan river and the area is contiguous to the old town of Battleford. The people in that area did their business there; their centre was the old town of Battleford. They very seldom got into North Battleford and as a matter of fact it would be more agreeable to the people living in that area to be in the Battlefords than in the Redberry district, the great portion of which lies north of the north branch of the Saskatchewan river. If the government did not think that were advisable, they could take a small portion of the range of the townships in which North Battleford is situated and add it to Redberry, and then get sufficient population in the next two ranges lying north of the proposed line of the Battlefords to make up the required number.

I do not know that it is of any particular value to say anything more in connection with the schedule as proposed. As I said at the outset I was definitely told that no matter whether I stayed here two weeks or two months, there would be no alterations. I can see no benefit in continuing the fight after a threat of that kind. If I thought there were a chance of getting alterations of any kind, I would gladly stay here for two months and continue the fight. But I appeal to hon. members opposite, to the government, that in this particular instance of the Battlefords there is justification for a change and I think further consideration should be given in that regard.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Notwithstanding the somewhat pessimistic remarks of the hon. member for Humboldt (Mr. Totzke) with regard to the possible result of our intercessions, I would like to point out to the Prime Minister and to the government that like the hon. member for Acadia (Mr. Gardiner), I have some personal knowledge, although not of the same homesteading kind, of North Battleford and the surrounding country since 1905. It was then that the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta were established. Following that for a number of years there were very good crops, but in 1907, 1908 and again in 1911 we had a terrific frost that put a crimp in practically all the crops of the old and southern areas of Saskatchewan. That was in the days of Red Fife; they had none of the early wheats established at that time, with the result that Red Fife seemed to be altogether too late and there grew up a strong desire and demand for more live stock. The Saskatchewan government responded to that demand in 1908 by passing a Live Stock Distributing Act and putting a considerable amount of money into

the distribution of live stock. The good people of North Battleford, however, did not think we were engaging in that work sufficiently rapidly and generously to meet their requirements. There is a vast hinterland north of that country, without, at that time, any railroad extending up to Jackfish or Meadow Lake and they were crying out for more live stock as it was a great grass country. In order to meet the situation and to supplement the activities of the government of that day at Regina, the business men of North Battleford—and I would like the house to mark this because I have never before heard of a case like this anywhere in Canada, especially on the part of a small struggling town as it was at that time—initiated the idea of establishing a live stock distributing association—I think that was the official name—working in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture at Regina, the latter body doing most of the buying, while the business men of North Battleford supplied the money and did the distributing of live stock and collecting for themselves. A very considerable amount of live stock was distributed in that way by the business men, and, as I said before, I do not know of a city of that size in any other part of Canada or, indeed, on this continent which has taken such an active personal interest in the surrounding country from which it drew and upon which it depended for its business. It was, I think, an imperative and enterprising thing for them to do; it was pressed upon them by reason of the exigencies of the situation due to the early frosts and low wheat prices in those early years. The only similar organization I know of on a large scale in Canada is that recently initiated and organized by the president of the Canadian Pacific Railway, Mr. Beatty; that was three years ago. The house will remember, when the recent bad crops first struck the southwestern part of Saskatchewan and other places, a number of business men headed by Mr. Beatty and others conceived the idea of doing in a large way exactly what North Battleford did away back in 1911, more than twenty years ago. The Canadian Pacific initiated this enterprise in a large way and it is now a going concern, not expanding very rapidly, because conditions, on account of lack of money, do not warrant it. But I want to point out that before the Canadian Pacific or any other of these big business concerns ever dreamed of such a proposition, North Battleford was on the map with its businessmen with their hands in their pockets supplementing the effort of the Saskatchewan government to do the same thing for that constituency running