

Redistribution Bill

Thomas Mackay. I was indebted to him for much of the information I had on the early settlement of that country, particularly with respect to the Battleford area.

Any suggestions in regard to these two constituencies we shall be glad indeed to view with favour. I regret that for the reasons I have given we cannot dislocate the plan of redistribution that has been prepared with such infinite pains. It was thrown entirely out of gear by allowing judgment to be influenced by appeals to sympathy and sentiment, and members on this side find themselves now in a position where they cannot yield to the views that have been expressed by the hon. gentlemen this afternoon.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Mr. Chairman, in respect to the suggestion of retaining the name North Battleford for the constituency, if the town of that name could have been included I would have welcomed that proposal very cordially. But it seems to me it would be something of an anomaly for the constituency itself to be called North Battleford, when the town of North Battleford is not in that constituency. Leaving the town from which it gets its name out of the constituency would be, I should say, offering the shadow but withdrawing the substance. I question whether it would help matters much. I have all along advocated very strongly keeping the name North Battleford for historic and other reasons—

Mr. BENNETT: Battleford is the historic name, not North Battleford.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Well, these names all mark stages in our historical development. I wish the Prime Minister could have seen his way to granting not only the name of the constituency but associating with it the town of North Battleford. If that cannot be done, unless the hon. member himself has some feeling on the matter my view is that to call the constituency North Battleford without the town of North Battleford being in it, perhaps would be regarded by many as anomalous.

Mr. TURNBULL: Seeing that North Battleford is not in the constituency will the hon. gentleman suggest a name that would be satisfactory for that northern constituency? I took Redberry as being the most satisfactory to everyone as I supposed. If any one can suggest anything more satisfactory I am not particular about a name.

Mr. McINTOSH: There is the town of Battleford and the young city of North Battleford, but all the country north and

[Mr. Bennett.]

west of North Battleford is acceptably known as the North Battleford country. I think that the idea in the mind of the leader of the opposition is that if that great piece of territory now being called Redberry should be known as the North Battleford district, or territory, it might be better. I do not object to the name "Redberry." What I strenuously object to is doing away with the old name, North Battleford. Might I ask if the suggestion made by the right hon. the Prime Minister could be left until after eight o'clock?

Some hon. MEMBERS: No, let us get through.

Mr. TURNBULL: Would my hon. friend suggest that the southern area be called "The Battlefords" and the other "North Battleford"?

Mr. McINTOSH: "The Battlefords" would be the area into which you put the two Battlefords?

Mr. TURNBULL: Yes.

Mr. McINTOSH: My point is that all the country north and west of the city of North Battleford is known as the North Battleford area. I think the Prime Minister's suggestion would be better than nothing.

Mr. TURNBULL: I have no objection to calling them "The Battlefords" and "North Battleford."

Mr. BENNETT: I think the hon. member for North Battleford (Mr. McIntosh) the other day suggested that we should use the name "The Battlefords" rather than just Battleford. That country, when I went west, was called the Battleford country as a broad general term, rather than the North Battleford country, and I suppose it is yet; similarly with the Prince Albert country, and so on.

Mr. McINTOSH: It would be then.

Mr. BENNETT: If it would better satisfy the members from that area we might call the seat North Battleford, even though as the right hon. gentleman has said the city of North Battleford is not in it. It would mean an entire change of population to the extent of 7,000 to change the boundaries, that is the real difficulty. Call the south seat just "Battleford," or "The Battlefords."

Mr. McINTOSH: "The Battlefords" would be better.

Mr. BENNETT: There is no reason why that should not be done. The difficulty is because of the location of the city out of it. I have been making an endeavour to get