

*Redistribution Bill*

the constituency was left practically intact, only the eastern boundary being moved westward a certain distance from its Prince Albert boundary. For instance Shellbrook was formerly in North Battleford, now it is in Prince Albert. And until this bill was put before the house the boundary line was practically the same as in 1914, 1917 and 1924. By this bill the riding of North Battleford is demolished to a certain extent, about one quarter, as I have said being taken out of it and thrown in with three quarters of South Battleford. In addition the names North Battleford and South Battleford disappear. The great area surrounding North Battleford is given the new name Redberry. I leave it to other hon. members speaking for Saskatchewan to say what more suggestive name if any ought to be adopted. Surely the government can take a matter of that kind into consideration and take some action.

In concluding may I say I am pleased to have had another opportunity of presenting this very controversial question to the committee. I do not want to be acrimonious, do not want to show any feeling in the matter, but I desire to say that what is being done in view of the history of these topographically interesting constituencies is astounding—amazing.

Finally I wish to move two amendments, which will bring the matter definitely before the committee. I would say that if the amendments are not satisfactory to the government we would accept any reasonable suggestion to rectify the matters to which I have drawn attention. The first amendment is, moved by myself and seconded by the hon. member for South Battleford (Mr. Vallance):

That townships 43-48 inclusive, north of the North Saskatchewan river, range 16 west of the 3rd meridian be taken from "The Battlefords" as at present constituted and transferred to Redberry as at present constituted.

The second amendment is:

That townships 39-41 inclusive, straight north to the North Saskatchewan river following in a southeasterly direction to township 39, ranges 11-15 inclusive west of the 3rd meridian be transferred from Redberry as at present constituted to "The Battlefords" as at present constituted.

These two suggestions were brought to the attention of the house by the hon. member for Acadia (Mr. Gardiner). The amendment for the change in names if necessary can come later.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member cannot move two amendments at the same time. [Mr. McIntosh.]

Mr. McINTOSH: Well, I will move the first and the hon. member for South Battleford will move the second.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The two were mentioned together to show the relationship.

Mr. VALLANCE: Mr. Chairman, would you mind telling us what is the amendment now before the committee?

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for Regina has moved that the schedule with respect to the province of Saskatchewan be struck out and that the reprinted schedule be substituted therefor.

Mr. BENNETT: That should pass on division first.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The amendment of the hon. member for North Battleford (Mr. McIntosh) will have to be a sub-amendment.

The CHAIRMAN: If the amendment of the hon. member for Regina is adopted the reprinted schedule will be carried, and then the amendment of the hon. member for North Battleford will be in order. Is it the pleasure of the committee that the amendment of the hon. member for Regina shall be adopted?

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. VALLANCE: You will notice, Mr. Chairman, that these two amendments submitted by the hon. member for North Battleford are complementary; that is, if you take townships 44 to 48 inclusive out of the Battlefords as at present constituted, you must substitute something in lieu thereof. For the information of those who are not as familiar with the geography of that portion of Saskatchewan as those who represent it, I may say that there are two Battlefords. There is the old town of Battleford which, as the Prime Minister said on a previous occasion, once was the capital of the Northwest Territories; I think it is one of the oldest, if not the oldest, settlement in what is now known as the province of Saskatchewan.

The amendment now before the committee is not what I would have desired, but it is better than the suggestion contained in the present bill. I have always argued that the northwestern part of the province of Saskatchewan, north of the Saskatchewan river should be one constituency, and I think that is pretty well agreed upon by those who have given the matter any consideration. If you go back to the redistribution of 1924 you will notice that this principle was definitely