

better boundary than the 59th or the 61st would be. But the hon. gentleman will notice that the 60th parallel is sufficiently far north to include every part of the Peace river valley. And the idea, as I would judge, at the present time at any rate, is that the whole of the Peace river valley could unquestionably be included within the jurisdiction of the new province to be created.

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY. Has the district of Athabaska ever applied for representation in this House, or has the hon. gentleman (Mr. Oliver) ever advocated that it should have representation here?

Mr. OLIVER. I have not made that representation. Having had the honour of representing through two parliaments the whole of the provisional district of Alberta, I have found quite enough on my hands without advocating the inclusion of the district of Athabaska.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. The hon. gentleman's convenience is not to be considered before the public interest, surely?

Mr. OLIVER. Well, even I have my limitations.

Mr. HERRON. As to the dividing line between the two provinces, I do not see how the conclusion is reached that it should be as is here proposed. What was at one time supposed to be a grazing country in Alberta has now turned out to be an agricultural country—that is perfectly true. As between an agricultural country and what is known to stockmen as a stock country there is a marked difference. In carrying on agriculture there is nothing to take any particular harm because of severe weather. But, when stock has to run out the year around with no means of shelter provided, there is a vast difference. The country referred to by the hon. minister, no doubt, is that in the foothills of the Rocky mountains which has turned out to be a very admirable agricultural country. But I do not think there is a stockman of any experience in Canada today who would ever think of turning a herd of cattle loose in the country about Moosejaw or in Prince Albert country or about Regina. There is only one place in our country, as I said a few nights ago that is a genuine stock country, and the eastern boundary of that country is from sixty to seventy miles east of where the present proposed boundary line runs. If you go beyond that, you reach a country where stock will not live out the year round. There is no use in a man trying to draw comparisons between range and other cattle, for the reason that stock housed or fed in the winter season are always looked after, to a large extent, in the summer season by their owners. But, when you turn out stock on a range country, they run out the year round. They are only handled twice a year. The boundary line as here proposed cuts off a portion of the stock country. If the line was extended about

Mr. OLIVER.

seventy-five miles further east it would take into Alberta all the country that will sustain cattle running out in the winter season. I make that statement as a matter of fact, and I do not think that any man who knows the facts will dispute it. I have been over that country and have ranged cattle upon it. Now, there are 15,000 cattle brands in the Northwest Territories at the present time. Of course, some of these apply to cattle in the eastern portions of the country where they have this class of stock that is housed in winter and looked after by their owners in summer. But the great majority of these brands are for cattle running in what is known as the range country. The clashing of brands is a very serious thing. I said the other evening in the House that hundreds of thousands of cattle running in the stock country are known to their owners only by these brands.

Now if one province establishes one brand law and another province a different brand law you can easily see the difficult position the stock interest would be in. When cattle would drift from one province to another great confusion would result. I think this government is aware of the difficulties that were occasioned by stock running across the international boundary line, and if I am not mistaken, a serious international question is under consideration at the present moment between this government and that of the United States in consequence of a seizure of stock that had drifted across the boundary line. There will be no danger in our case of international troubles, but there might be serious commercial trouble to the two provinces. So I think the line proposed by the member for Calgary would be a very acceptable line to the stockmen, a line running to the 8th range west of the 3rd meridian to the Saskatchewan, and then west to any range decided upon going north. I think that would be an acceptable line to the stockmen.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. The hon. gentleman said there were about 15,000 brands registered in the Northwest Territories; could he tell me what proportion of those brands are registered in that part of the country that will come within the limits of the province of Saskatchewan?

Mr. HERRON. I would think about 20 per cent of those brands are registered east of the boundary, or east of the line that I would recommend. There might be 10 per cent east of that. But probably these cattle would be branded similarly, because they would go further from home. They are different from barnyard cattle, because if they were with adjoining stock that was running wild it would be necessary to put a brand on them, because cattle that get into these wild herds are only found by their owners once a year. There is a