

dorsed. The Liberal member representing that part of the territory in the legislature, who is a staunch Liberal of the old school, was one of the men who protested against the proposed location of the boundary line and also against the other clauses of this Bill. I do not wish to let go without contradiction, statements made by corporations or bodies of men, or individuals who do not know what they are talking about. What I say is perfectly right so far as the boundary is concerned.

Mr. SCOTT. I wish to repeat that in my opinion the view of the secretary of the Maple Creek Board of Trade is worthy of just as much respect and credence upon this particular question, as the word of anybody else in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. HERRON. Is that Mr. Bray?

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Abbott. It is not only his personal view, but it is the view of the business people of that town and district, which, as my hon. friend (Mr. Herron) must admit, is as much as any other district in the Northwest Territories, an exclusively ranching district. As the Minister of the Interior this afternoon very well pointed out, our knowledge of that country as the result of experience has undergone during the last half dozen years a very material change. A very large part of the country east of the 4th meridian was looked upon until very recent years as exclusively ranching country—practically the whole country to within fifty or sixty miles of the town of Moosejaw; and until the present moment along the 49th parallel, from the 4th meridian for 200 miles east there is a continuous range country on which horses and cattle run all the year round just as they do in the district of Pincher Creek. And the Pincher Creek country has undergone a remarkable change. Whereas a few years ago the people there were doing business entirely in cattle and horses, they are now doing business in wheat, and the same thing applies to a large part of the country east of the 4th meridian—not only to sections of the country in the neighbourhood of Moosejaw and Wood mountain, but far east of there. The hon. member for Eastern Assiniboia (Mr. Turriff) pointed out that until recent years (and even yet there were and are) very considerable districts looked upon as partially, or largely ranching districts. For instance, the Yellow Grass district, on the Soo line 60 or 70 miles south-east of Moosejaw, is a considerable area which was until recent years treated as an exclusively ranching country; but the character of that country has undergone a certain change just like the Pincher Creek country. With regard to the resolution of the Medicine Hat public meeting, let me say, as I said before, that it alleges no complaint on the part of the Medicine Hat ranchers. So far as it alleges a complaint, it is on behalf of the people to be left in Saskatchewan east

of the 4th meridian. What complaint has my hon. friend to allege, on behalf of the people he represents, with regard to the dividing line? There is sixty miles distance between the eastern edge of his district of Alberta and the western edge of the proposed province of Saskatchewan. I think I have every right, in comparison with my hon. friend, to express an opinion on this subject, because I represent the people who are living in the neighbourhood of this dividing line, and I have given the unanswerable proof to the House that the people of Maple Creek, who are going to be in the smaller ranching community left in the eastern province apparently are entirely satisfied; and, so far as the Medicine Hat people are concerned, who passed that resolution, a very large number of them would be entirely satisfied to be left in the proposed province of Saskatchewan and have the dividing line selected, not at the 4th meridian, but sixty miles further west.

Mr. HERRON. Put them in Saskatchewan and make one province of them. What we object to is running the line through the centre of them.

Mr. SCOTT. The people concerned do not object.

Mr. HERRON. You may turn a stock country into an agricultural country, but I would ask the hon. member for Western Assiniboia, if you can turn an agricultural country into a stock country?

Mr. HENDERSON. I have listened with a good deal of interest to the statement of the hon. member for Western Assiniboia (Mr. Scott), and I have been a good deal impressed by what I might call, without any intention to be offensive, the egotism of the hon. gentleman. He tells us, the members of this House on both sides, that he has a right to speak for those people because he represents them. Does he not know that every other member of this House represents the people of Saskatchewan just as well as he does?

Some hon. MEMBERS. No.

Mr. HENDERSON. Most assuredly we do. I am not simply the representative of the people of the county of Halton; I am also the representative of the people of Western Assiniboia. I am here to look after the interests of the whole Dominion of Canada. The hon. gentleman told us a short time ago that when they met together to consider these Bills, the first thing they decided was whether there was to be provincial autonomy or not. Who decided so? It seems that the whole matter was cut and dried before it came down to this House. What are we sitting here for? The hon. member for Western Assiniboia and a few others had decided the whole question, and we are wasting months on a matter which the hon. gentleman ego-