

Redistribution

member into the interior it was necessary to take Revelstoke from the Kamloops area and place it in the new Okanagan-Revelstoke area. I have had very little protest regarding that, and I think the committee felt that by changing the name to Okanagan-Revelstoke it would give that historic name great national advertising. I know that many committees have had municipalities requesting that they use certain names, and we have heard much about names and historical interest and community interest. Any name attached to a constituency gets great national advertising across Canada. We felt that the people of Revelstoke, by having their name attached to the constituency of Okanagan-Revelstoke, would probably be more than satisfied by that change as opposed to going into Kootenay West where otherwise they probably should have gone. But to make up the proper number so we could have the other new member taken from the lower mainland and placed in the interior, it was necessary to do that. It was done before I became chairman of the committee, and I heartily endorsed the actions of those who had approved of this move.

British Columbia is a large province with an area of 365,000 square miles. I have been greatly interested in the remarks that have been made during the last two or three days concerning other provinces. I was born in Nova Scotia, and I know only too well Annapolis, Kings and Digby. I think even now I could from memory go through the counties of Nova Scotia. In fact I was married at Annapolis Royal. So I have listened with a great deal of interest to the arguments whether I thought they were right or wrong. However, coming from British Columbia, and as chairman of the subcommittee, I had all I could do and all I wished to do in looking after the British Columbia problems placed before me.

Let us look at British Columbia just for a few minutes. As I say, we have looked at the problems of the other provinces and have seen just how easy it was to arrange constituencies in Saskatchewan. The right hon. Minister of Agriculture said that there you can lie down on your stomach on the side of a gully and look across and you would not know the gully was there. In British Columbia you have to climb 9,000 feet to get over the mountains.

Let us take Kootenay East with 32,000, a very small constituency. Then let us take Skeena represented by Mr. Applewhaite and also Cariboo represented by Mr. Murray. There you have practically two-thirds of the

[Mr. Mott.]

area of British Columbia. It would be practically impossible to have equal representation on a population basis there, because you would have these two great areas right down to the Fraser valley with only about three members against some 19 members for the lower mainland area. Therefore, when we talk about redistribution, apparently there are some provinces that do not fit into the scheme of things as do other provinces.

I just want to close by saying that I have had the fullest co-operation from all the members from British Columbia, and especially from the ex-chairman upon whom I have had to call on many occasions. He has given me one hundred per cent co-operation, and I appreciate that because it is the first time I have had the honour of being chairman of the British Columbia subcommittee. At this time I do not want to leave out the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, who represented the opposition and whom I also found very valuable. He was reasonable, and we appreciated his assistance very much. That is all I have to say at this time. We have done our best to meet the views of this house, and we can only say that we tried to do our best.

Paragraph agreed to.

On paragraph 13—Okanagan Boundary.

Mr. Mott: I have an amendment to move, Mr. Chairman, in connection with Okanagan Boundary and Okanagan-Revelstoke. I mention the two at this time for the simple reason that we have had to straighten out the boundary of Okanagan Boundary, which also caused a change in the southern boundary of Okanagan-Revelstoke, so we can take the two of them together. These amendments which I am moving are seconded by the hon. member for Kamloops, and have been unanimously endorsed by all the members of the committee. These two amendments are lengthy, so I would ask the indulgence of the house to have them taken as read.

Mr. Fulton: I merely wish to confirm that these amendments have been discussed and agreed upon by the members of the subcommittee. They have been approved by the surveyor-general as representing the lines of the boundary which were agreed upon by the subcommittee, as pointed out by the member for New Westminster, the chairman of our subcommittee at that time. In addition I want to echo what he has said as to the propriety, under the circumstances, of including in the name of one of the new constituencies, namely the northern half of the old constituency of Yale, another historic riding of British Columbia, the name of Revelstoke.