

Redistribution

have put forward would have application to other counties as well, the question which stands out in my mind more than any other is that of community interest. The proposed constituency of Victoria-Carleton, with the extensions made in the minority report, would constitute the so-called potato belt which is a most important segment of the agricultural activities of our two counties. Therefore I hope that when the commissioners re-examine this matter they will see some merit in the arguments we have put forward and adopt pretty much the proposals contained in the minority report of Mr. Justice Anglin.

Mr. A. M. A. McLean (Charlotte): Mr. Speaker, I have before me the two appendices Y and B, and I would certainly endorse appendix Y. Appendix B includes the site of my birthplace in the proposed constituency and naturally I should like to represent it, but we have to think of the economics of the different constituencies. In the constituency of Carleton I would say the main activity is farming and there is some manufacturing which is connected with farming. In Charlotte the main activity is fishing. The present population of Charlotte is 23,285. In the new constituency of Carleton-Charlotte proposed in appendix Y the population would be 56,554.

I do not think that the commissioners have realized the human side of things. For example, let me take a short piece of the coast of Charlotte, to the north of which is Carleton county. Appendix Y takes in a little more territory than appendix B. It takes in part of York, part of Sunbury, part of Queens, part of Saint John and all of Charlotte. Appendix B takes in part of Saint John, part of York, part of Carleton and all of Charlotte. In either case we take in all of Charlotte.

Charlotte includes the towns and villages of Blacks Harbour and Beaver Harbour, Deer Island, Campobello Island and Grand Manan, and the towns of St. Andrews, Lepreau and Musquash. All those places are interested in fishing. I do not think there is any fishing in Carleton county except some salmon and sport fishing.

In Charlotte county we have one of the greatest fisheries in the world, the sardine fishery, which takes in much of the shore extending along the gulf of Maine and the coast of Nova Scotia. Therefore I do not see how any member could efficiently represent Carleton county as well as Charlotte because their economies are entirely different. I

would agree with the hon. member for Victoria-Carleton (Mr. Flemming) that the two economies cannot be represented efficiently by one member.

So, Mr. Speaker, in a few words I simply wish to endorse the proposal contained in appendix Y, which I think is the best and most efficient for New Brunswick at large. I hope the commissioners will think the matter over again, look into the human side of the question and adopt appendix Y.

Mr. J. Chester MacRae (York-Sunbury): Mr. Speaker, I should like to enter the debate very briefly to support the position that has been taken by the hon. member for Victoria-Carleton (Mr. Flemming), the former premier of New Brunswick, and the hon. member for Charlotte (Mr. McLean) in their contention that appendix Y would seem to be a more reasonable basis for representation of the western part of New Brunswick. I had not intended to enter this debate. I had understood that the hon. member for Victoria-Carleton would present his arguments, but during the last few days I have received representations in connection with a part of my constituency which I should like to put on record. What the commissioners were doing from the beginning was to base representation in New Brunswick as far as possible on city units.

● (4:00 p.m.)

Before I proceed I should like to commend Mr. Justice Anglin, Mr. E. M. Lyons, Chief Electoral Officer for the province, and Mr. Boudreau for the exceptionally fine job they did. They worked diligently and conscientiously on the task they had accepted. What they did, of course, is shown in both appendices. In appendix B it was provided first of all that the cities of Saint John and Lancaster would be one constituency. This is No. 8 in appendix B. We have Moncton, Coverdale and Dieppe as a constituency.

The commission based other constituencies on Bathurst, Edmundston and Campbellton. The constituency of York-Sunbury would be centred around the Fredericton-Oromocto-Camp Gagetown complex. One can see the line of reasoning that they followed. I also commend Mr. Justice Anglin's report. It is not too different from the majority report except, as hon. members have just pointed out, that Victoria-Carleton would be retained very much as it is now and Charlotte would have added to it the city of Lancaster and certain other areas of the southwestern part of the province.