

Redistribution

All that it has been possible to do is juggle boundaries here and there with the result that for reasons previously discussed the district of Revelstoke, which if it is moved from its present riding of Kamloops to any other should go to the riding of Kootenay West where it has a community of geographic and economic interest, in order to equalize population and to make more equal, although it does not accomplish that result, the size of the new riding of Okanagan-Revelstoke, has been put into that riding. Thus it has been included in a portion of the Okanagan where in fact it has no community of geographic or economic interest. I just want to say that it has been a great pleasure for me to represent the historic district of Revelstoke within the boundaries of which is the mile post at Craiggellachie where the last spike on the Canadian Pacific Railway was driven. It is a historic town in more ways than one, but it is of course most closely identified with railroading activity. It lies some 26 miles northwest of the north end of the Upper Arrow lake and on the Columbia river which flows into the Arrow lakes. To anyone who looks at the map of that country, with Revelstoke lying between the Monashee and Selkirk mountains in the Columbia river valley, where that river flows south after having rounded the big bend and resumed its southward flow which carries it on into the United States, it will be obvious that the community of interest, both geographic and economic, for Revelstoke lies in the Kootenay country through which the Columbia river then flows.

There is in addition the fact that at the present time the Celgar Corporation has applied for and received a forestry management licence which covers in the main all the timber areas of the Arrow lakes and adjacent districts extending away up the Columbia river past Revelstoke and up into the big bend. Their plant is going to be down in the vicinity of Castlegar; it is a huge pulp, paper and cellulose development. The fact that Revelstoke, in so far as the timber industry is concerned, lies within that area is further proof, if proof were needed, that if the district of Revelstoke is to be moved anywhere it should be moved into the Kootenay country.

I thought I should say these few words. My views were made known to the committee as well, but I did not carry the majority opinion of the committee, with the result that it is now impossible to bring about an adjustment in the interior which would both relieve the size of the ridings and make it possible for Revelstoke to go into the Kootenay country.

I simply want to express my regret that this was not done and that Revelstoke instead of going there is now included in the Okanagan. According to the expression of opinion of the people of that district they would much prefer to be included in the riding of Kootenay West, where they were prior to 1933.

Apart from that I do feel it is only fair to say that although I took a sharply different view of the principle, which should have been followed as I have said before, nevertheless once the decision was made—as it has been made—as to the general areas in which the new seats were to be located then I think that broadly speaking we have been able to arrive at a decision which was as reasonable as it could be. There is only the one further reservation which I mentioned before which is that I feel strongly that the constituency of Vancouver Centre is still too much of a pocket borough with a population of only some 48,000.

Paragraph agreed to.

Paragraph 9, Kootenay East, agreed to.

Paragraph 10, Kootenay West, agreed to.

Paragraph 11, Nanaimo, agreed to.

On paragraph 12—New Westminster.

Mr. Mott: Mr. Chairman, as chairman for a short time of the British Columbia subcommittee I think I should rise at this time to say a few words. My reason for speaking is that you mentioned New Westminster, the riding I represent in British Columbia.

I would like to make a few remarks about the work of the British Columbia subcommittee of which I was chairman. Quite a lot of good work had been done, and I am one who felt very sorry that the chairman of the committee resigned part way along and we had to carry on without him. Nevertheless I would like to say at the outset in reply to my hon. friend from Comox-Alberni that the committee certainly did not bend over backwards, as far as I was concerned, to see that the opposition was well taken care of.

Mr. Fulton: You went as far as you could go along the other way.

Mr. Mott: I would also like to mention my own view regarding Revelstoke. That matter was brought up before the subcommittee and has also been brought before the house by the hon. member for Kamloops. To place Revelstoke in West Kootenay meant placing 54,000 or 55,000 in that constituency—I may be a thousand or so out in my figures but they are approximately correct—in order to make up a new constituency. To bring a new