

Redistribution

not said by the hon. member for Eglinton in his remarks this afternoon was what happened when that former constituency of Brant-Wentworth—if I am correct I believe he used the term “amalgamated” in referring to the two constituencies.

Mr. Fleming: I do not think I used the word “amalgamated”.

Mr. McIlraith: In any event, I think the point I wish to make is one with which you will agree. I understood you to say that the constituencies represented by the members for Brant-Wentworth and Haldimand were combined together. I think there is no difference between us—

Mr. Fleming: I said that the county of Brant, excluding the riding of Brantford, is to be united under this proposal with the county of Haldimand.

Mr. McIlraith: Just before I deal with that, may I say that a great deal has been said about the history of this constituency as opposed to the history of the county. This present constituency of Haldimand was created in 1903. It has a history as a constituency, although a very fine county history, only going back to 1903. It is rather of interest to note that prior to that time it had with it a part of the county of Welland. Now, that is the history of that constituency. What has been done?

Under this proposal the county of Welland has been divided in two, and I think all hon. members will agree that was a reasonable and proper thing to do. Turning to Brant-Wentworth, I should like to say that that constituency included the suburbs of Brantford and part of the corporation of the city of Hamilton, a part of the county of Wentworth and the main part of the county of Brant. What has happened is that in addition to the new constituency in Welland, another new constituency has been created in the Hamilton-Wentworth area.

Now, the difficulty in which the opposition are finding themselves, and which they have not explained to the house, is that the present member for Brant-Wentworth does not live in that part of his constituency which is now in Hamilton city.

Mr. Hees: What difference does that make?

Mr. McIlraith: The present member for Brant-Wentworth does not live in that part of his constituency which was put into Hamilton city.

Mrs. Fairclough: May I interrupt to say that this linking of Brant-Wentworth is foolish if you know the actual territory. About three square city blocks, which were

[Mr. McIlraith.]

part of the township of Ancaster, could scarcely be described as the city of Hamilton.

Mr. McIlraith: I was coming to that. It could scarcely be described as the city of Hamilton, but it is within the corporate limits of the city of Hamilton.

Mrs. Fairclough: For two years.

Mr. McIlraith: Yes, in 1951.

Mr. Lennard: I might say that it was only two years ago that it was taken into the corporation of the city of Hamilton.

Mr. McIlraith: That is quite correct, and that is precisely what causes embarrassment to the opposition. The hon. member does not live in that part, so he cannot run in the new constituency. I think there is no difference; at least nothing so far has been said by the opposition about the internal lines—

Mr. Hees: Why cannot the hon. member run wherever he wants to?

Mr. McIlraith: That is precisely my point. I want to show how inconsistent your interjection is with the arguments you have advanced in the last three days. The internal boundaries of the city of Hamilton are not at issue, so far as I know, and they completely meet the wishes of the opposition. In so far as there were going to be three seats, I think the internal boundaries are agreeable, so nothing turns on that.

Now, this new constituency of Wentworth, when this Hamilton part was taken out which was in Brant, combines the rural part of Wentworth constituency and the Wentworth part of Brant-Wentworth into one constituency. The hon. member who represents Brant-Wentworth constituency must not intend to run in the rural part of the new constituency of Wentworth, otherwise there would be no case to be made there. In any event, the hon. member for Brant-Wentworth does not live in Wentworth county. The difficulty arises from the fact that he apparently lives in the Brant county part of his present constituency. He is free to stand for nomination wherever he wishes. That is the right of any citizen who is entitled to stand as a candidate. I point that out because the effect of the argument of the members of the opposition is to lead one to believe that two constituencies represented by members of the Conservative party in the house have been amalgamated. That is not the fact.

Mr. Hees: Yes, it is.

Mr. McIlraith: The hon. member for Broadview apparently knows all about this.

Mr. Hees: I know enough to follow simple facts.