

Redistribution

On paragraph 6—Carleton.

Mr. McIlraith: I have an amendment that I think will be wholly agreeable to the leader of the opposition. It is indeed a pleasure to be at one with him for once.

Mr. Murphy: A very strange pleasure.

Mr. McIlraith: Because of a printer's error the word "and" was omitted and certain brackets have to be inserted. The amendment reads as follows:

That the schedule be amended with respect to item 6 (Carleton) by inserting the word "and" before the words "the village of Rockcliffe Park" and by putting brackets around the words "excepting therefrom the township of Gloucester, the town of Eastview, the village of Rockcliffe Park."

The Chairman: Hon. members have heard the amendment. Shall the amendment carry?

Amendment agreed to.

Paragraph as amended agreed to.

Paragraphs 7 to 14 inclusive agreed to.

On paragraph 15—Glengarry-Prescott.

Mr. Major: Dealing with this, may I say that I am not happy and I feel that the people of both Prescott and Glengarry are not happy over the merging of Glengarry and Prescott as a county unit in the next representation in this house. I think it is unfortunate that the committee has seen fit to recommend that the counties of Glengarry and Prescott be joined as one county for future electoral purposes, and very briefly I would like to state some of the facts which should be considered before taking a decision.

May I recall that Glengarry—except for eight years 1917-1925—has been a single constituency since confederation. To do justice to its historic tradition, though it is not up to the required quota, I feel that it should be continued as a single constituency.

To realize how long the county has been settled, one has only to look at the records of the churches established at Williamstown and St. Raphael. The United Empire Loyalists who settled the front part of the county together with the Scots who settled the northern part have a great history, in fact too long for me to attempt to recall it at this time.

At St. Raphael, you find the oldest Roman Catholic church established in Upper Canada, and there you also find the settlement of highland Scots. These disbanded military men were guided by their chaplain who later became Bishop Macdonell. At St. Raphael stands a memorial erected to his memory by the federal government. If you look back about 100 years you will trace the first French Canadian families who settled in Glengarry.

May I mention that Glengarry's first member of parliament was Donald A. Macdonald, a brother of Sir John Sandfield Macdonald, the first premier of Ontario. From 1945 to 1949 Glengarry had the good fortune and honour to be represented by the Right Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King. You will recall that the men from Glengarry served and continue to serve their country well. The Glengarry Fencibles, the oldest military organization in Ontario, were always ready to serve when their country needed a strong arm, and Glengarry is now playing its full share in the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders. May I mention that you find Glengarry's sons all through Canada; and their home, Glengarry, should be continued as a single constituency.

I feel there should be something more than the application of a quotient when dealing with counties of such historical background, and a great deal of consideration should be given before merging Glengarry with the county of Prescott in such a way as to have a Liberal member disappear from the house.

Prescott has also been a single constituency since confederation. It extends from Point Fortune along the Quebec boundary to Wendover on the Ottawa river, some 30 miles from Ottawa. Its settlers are for the most part of French origin, and it equally has its pride and tradition. Its customs and interests are different from those of Glengarry inasmuch as Glengarry is united with Stormont and Dundas for hospitalization, social welfare, public health and its county road system.

The St. Lawrence development I feel will cause a great expansion which will have its effect, and I feel that the population of the area including Glengarry will be greatly increased. By joining Glengarry and Prescott at this time you will be creating a county with a population of over 43,000, larger than most other comparable rural ridings. If you envisage the proposed county starting on the southwest corner close to Cornwall, following the St. Lawrence river down to river Baudet, then following the Quebec boundary up to 30 miles distant from Ottawa, you can realize the area that will be covered. You can also realize the difficulty a member will have in trying to keep in contact with his electors and deal effectively with the many problems of a rural constituency.

Considering all this, Mr. Chairman, why not leave Glengarry and Prescott as they are for the present redistribution? Why should we not wait until after the St. Lawrence development to assess the population, rather than join these two counties now, when it might be necessary to separate them again at the next redistribution?