

The CHAIRMAN: We mention the fact in the report that proportional representation and alternative vote should be disposed of before we consider the matter of redistribution. That is a matter that will have to come before the committee next year. That comes within the purview of our reference, but we have not devoted any time to it.

Mr. MACNICOL: I was under the impression that you were definitely recommending against proportional representation and the alternative vote.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes; we are embodying the report that we adopted on that in our final report.

Hon. Mr. STEVENS: That has been disposed of in this committee and will appear in this form in the final report.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes. As to the question of redistribution I find that the reference says:—

That a special committee . . . be appointed to study the Dominion Elections Act, 1934, and amendments thereto, and the Franchise Act, 1934, and amendments thereto and to suggest to the House such amendments to the said acts as they may deem advisable, and furthermore, such committee shall study and make a report on the following subjects:—

- (a) The proportional representation system;
- (b) The alternative vote in single-member constituencies;
- (c) Compulsory registration of voters;
- (d) Compulsory voting.

It was also ordered:—

That the said committee be instructed to study and make a report of the methods used to effect a redistribution of electoral districts in Canada and other countries, and to make suggestions to the House in connection therewith.

Mr. Butcher has made some little study on that but intends to continue that study from other countries as to the methods of redistribution used there, and will be in a position to give us a more elaborate report next year than he is at the present time.

Mr. HEAPS: I was one member of this committee that did not see eye to eye with others on this question of P.R. in the report we have made, and I feel that if the committee is turning down the suggestions in regard to P.R. and the alternative vote, there ought to be some recommendation following that in regard to redistribution of seats; because I do feel that if we are going to have what we might term a fairer representation in this house than the present system gives us, the only other way to do it would be to have a better redistribution of our seats than we have at present. There should be a closer ratio to population. It is ridiculous to have one constituency of 75,000 or 100,000 population and, in some cases, a constituency of 20,000; and you might always get in the house the same anomaly as we have at the present time.

The CHAIRMAN: I think that is in the mind of every member of the committee. If there is a reference made in our final report to the house that this question of redistribution of seats is still to be studied and dealt with in order to get a fairer representation, that is about as far as we can go.

Mr. HEAPS: I feel that that should come after the report of this committee on the question of P.R. and the alternative vote.

Hon. Mr. STEVENS: You would have that placed in the final report?

Mr. HEAPS: In the report we are now submitting to the House.

Hon. Mr. STEVENS: Yes, exactly.