

Redistribution

has occurred to me concerning relaxation that I might commend to the consideration of the opposition party. However, I will not quote it at the moment.

An hon. Member: Go on.

Mr. Gibson: There is a good old western proverb I might quote which I think is very applicable. "Tis music to the gambler's ears to hear the suckers howl". I have avoided taking part in any of the votes that have taken place today because I am not familiar with all the intricacies of dividing up Ontario and various other provinces. However, I will say from my knowledge of British Columbia that if the majority party in this house has been as fair in all the other provinces as they have been in my province, nobody here has any ground for complaint. In looking over what has been done in British Columbia, I think I can say that the Liberals have leaned over backward in making sure they will have ample opposition in the next parliament. Something has been said about gerrymandering taking place; but after listening to the hon. member for Dauphin I am very much inclined to think that probably it is not as important as some members think.

One is rather amused sometimes to hear members talking about large constituencies in various parts of Canada, particularly when I look across the house and see my good friend from Skeena and think of the tens of thousands of square miles he represents under the most adverse conditions. As a matter of fact I was very glad to agree when it was suggested to me, and I think it was with my concurrence that it was suggested to him, that I should probably make a small contribution toward sharing in the heavy task he must carry out by taking over some of the large coastal areas in his constituency. I have lost about 7,000 people from my constituency who were very accessible by Ontario standards, and have been given an area with many thousands of miles of coast line.

I would hesitate to try to judge, but it is possible that I have absorbed ten thousand miles of coast line that were formerly in the constituency of Skeena. The new district has a real community of interest with my own riding so far as the great fishing industry is concerned, and I am very happy to see this section added to my riding, while greatly regretting the loss of my good friends in the area from Departure bay to Englishman river. There is only one other comment I should like to make. I hope somebody will read these debates ten years from now, and I have no doubt they will because the same

[Mr. Gibson.]

difficulty will probably arise at that time. I sincerely hope that by the time of the next redistribution the population of the riding of Comox-Alberni will have grown to such an extent that we will be justified in having the riding entirely on Vancouver island. I hope it will then be possible to create a riding on the coast of British Columbia which will embrace a part of the riding of Coast-Capilano, part of Comox-Alberni and part of the riding of Skeena, thus bringing about a most useful and efficient redistribution in that section of our province.

Mr. Adamson: The hon. member misquoted the Chinese proverb.

Mr. Gibson: It was a western proverb.

Mr. Adamson: The proverb is this: "It is pleasant to the surgeon's eye to see his patients bleed". It is amazing indeed to see that there is still blood in the patient.

Paragraph agreed to.

Paragraph 6, Esquimalt-Saanich, agreed to.

Paragraph 7, Fraser Valley, agreed to.

On paragraph 8—Kamloops.

Mr. Fulton: I cannot quite agree with the hon. member for Comox-Alberni—

An hon. Member: We would not expect it.

Mr. Fulton:—that redistribution in British Columbia has been as perfect as he has described. I cannot agree with him all the way. I have expressed my differences of opinion with the majority of the subcommittee previously. I have said that in my view an extra riding in the city of Vancouver is not justified on the present population figures. However I do say, as I said then, that if that is to be the decision, then what has been done within the limits of that decision is as reasonably satisfactory as it could be made. I want to point out again, because it affects my own riding, that the result of that decision is that no adequate relief can be given to the constituencies in the interior of the province. Here I do agree with the hon. member for Comox-Alberni when he said that we sometimes feel we can sit back with a half smile at least, if not a full smile, when we hear those from other provinces discuss the size of their ridings, because the ridings in British Columbia, outside of the lower mainland area and the lower half of Vancouver island, are real empires, not pseudo empires.

What has happened as a result of the limitation imposed in British Columbia by the inclusion of this one riding within the city limits of Vancouver is that no adequate relief can be given to the problem of the excessive size of the ridings in the rest of the province.