

Redistribution

county of Haldimand. The county seat of Haldimand is Cayuga and the principal town is Dunnville. In our constituency which lies below the mountain the county seat is St. Catharines. Most of the people from Clinton, Beamsville, North Grimsby, South Grimsby, and Grimsby come to St. Catharines or Hamilton, so I say there is no historic association at all with the county of Haldimand.

Then with regard to historical significance, I believe the constituency I represent in this house takes second place to none. It was the seat of the first government in Upper Canada which was held at Navy Hall in Niagara-on-the-Lake then known as Newark. The great battle of Queenston Heights was fought within the boundaries of my constituency and Major General Isaac Brock is commemorated by a fine monument in Queenston Heights park.

The riding of Lincoln was created in 1882 by the late Sir John A. Macdonald. It was ratified by the late Lord Bennett in the redistribution bill of 1933. It was continued by the late Right Hon. William Lyon Mackenzie King in 1947 and I am pleased to know that it is to be continued as a single entity under this present administration. After the next census I am sure, with the rapid growth we have had in St. Catharines and the county of Lincoln, we will be well between 110,000 and 120,000, and at that time there will be ample room for two constituencies within the boundaries of the county of Lincoln.

I desire to quote one reference, a reference used on former occasions by the leader of the opposition. It is a biblical injunction and I should like to use it in a context different from that used by the leader of the opposition:

"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good".

I wish to continue serving the good people of the county of Lincoln. As a native son of that county the people of Lincoln have been good to me, and I shall be happy to serve them just as long as they desire me to be here. I shall endeavour to serve them conscientiously and to the best of my ability.

Mr. McIlraith: Mr. Chairman—

Mr. Drew: Mr. Chairman, I am just going to make a reference to what I have said, but I shall be glad to defer to the hon. member.

Mr. McIlraith: I am always deferential to the leader of the opposition.

Mr. Drew: I was going to point out, as stated in my letter to the Prime Minister, it had been understood that the population

included in Lincoln county was going to lead to the necessity of some readjustment. It was in relation to that that the suggestion which had been made was made.

May I say further that I am glad to be reminded of the biblical quotation to which the hon. member for Lincoln has just referred, because in some of the arguments he has used he has offered proof of the arguments we have been making. He has been suggesting that there should be some relationship and association maintained in carrying out this readjustment. Every argument that he has made would suggest reasons for a reconsideration along the lines that we have been putting forward. It is quite true that historic records should be preserved. He has every reason for pride in the traditions of that county, and in such events as the battle of Queenston Heights. But of course, there were other historic events in Haldimand which apply to earlier days. It is with the thought in mind that those associations are worth preserving, and that there may be some possibility of some respect for those traditions in the adjustments that are made, that I still keep the suggestion before the minister who is accepting the responsibility for guiding this measure that consideration be given to the riding of Haldimand along the very lines referred to by the member for Lincoln in quoting what I have said earlier in this debate.

Mr. McIlraith: Just before we vote on this motion, I believe it is appropriate that some of the facts with respect to this proposed constituency be placed before the committee. In speaking the other night the present member for Haldimand addressed himself particularly to the subject matter of his own constituency in a way that, while I might differ with some of the minor points he was discussing, I thought did him a great deal of credit. I must say it was the one speech from the opposition party in this debate that I thought was relevant throughout and well done.

I can only recall my own remarks in that connection when I spoke about this county of Haldimand on the previous day. These counties, of course, have fine historical background. It is difficult in any committee when you are adding to a county or taking away from a county. There have been some misconceptions about this situation.

The fact is that Haldimand is the second smallest constituency in the province of Ontario. The fact is that it is an old county with a good road system, easily accessible. The fact is that its area is relatively small, approximately 490 square miles. What was