

my youth that the population of Ontario was almost double that of the old province of Quebec. To-day there is a difference of only a few hundred thousand, and perhaps when the great mining development is carried on in northern Quebec in the near future, as it is bound to be, the population of Quebec may be equal to that of Ontario. Can you visualize, sir, the people of Ontario being satisfied with a representation of only sixty-five members in the House of Commons? There will be some commotion then, and we must of necessity prevent that. It should be possible to find ways and means, and not merely on a mathematical calculation, of treating the Canadian people as a whole unit. Let me give an example. Suppose some day that Quebec has a population of five million people and Ontario a population of three million five hundred thousand. You would then have a contracted parliament. Instead of a parliament consisting of 245 members there would only be 150 or 175. As my colleague, the hon. member for Rosthern, said a few moments ago, I believe that most members of parliament find their hands full to-day doing the work they have to do. I know that I find it a twenty-four hour job to represent 125,000 people. The fathers of confederation never expected that the representation should become more and more contracted instead of becoming more and more expanded. That is one of the thoughts I wish to leave with the House of Commons at this time.

I should now like to refer to some of the statements that were made by the hon. member for Temiscouata (Mr. Pouliot). I believe the best remedy for gerrymandering in a redistribution would be the formation of a judicial redistribution commission. I know that some members of parliament would say that was taking away some of the prerogatives of parliament. That may be true. I am just leaving that thought with the members of parliament and with the country as a whole. We are all human. You cannot change human nature. It is a wonderful thing that you cannot change it altogether. No doubt in a redistribution there would be jerrymandering again, whether it be done by a Liberal administration or a Conservative administration. Surely it should be possible, when dealing with a matter of national importance such as redistribution, to leave politics on the doorstep of the committee and to work for the welfare of the provinces and of Canada as a whole.

As far as I am concerned I should be very glad indeed to have redistribution carried out at an early date, but again I do not see the

urgency of it. I am sincerely convinced that, generally speaking, members of this parliament do not want an election next year. They certainly do not wish an election this fall, or at least until we enjoy some of the benefits that were granted to us last week. I know that most hon. members will agree with me on that score. I believe the country as a whole expects parliament, regardless of its political affiliations, to deal with the important matters that are before us and to work for the solution of the post-war problems.

To perform that task will test the energy, ability and capacity of every member of this house and of the cabinet. It is a man's job; it is a national job. I believe I speak for a large percentage of the population of this country when I say that, because I received a fine mandate from my own people. They told me, regardless of party affiliation, to come to Ottawa and to work with all I had within me for the solution of the problems which this country is bound to face in the post-war period.

I say these things because I believe that redistribution during the present session will trouble the minds of hon. members too much. It is too late anyway. I know it is not the intention of the hon. member for Charlevoix-Saguenay to have redistribution accomplished before the end of this session. I doubt if it will be accomplished before the session of 1947. My main reason for saying that—and it is corroborated by the statement made by the hon. member for Provencher (Mr. Jutras) and also by the hon. member for Rosthern (Mr. Tucker)—is that our population, generally speaking, is in a state of flux. Take my own constituency, particularly the gold mining section of it. It was practically a war victim. They took a lot of our trained and experienced miners to British Columbia, Sudbury and to other mines throughout Canada. To-day these people are coming back, and they are coming back in greater numbers than ever. The same thing applies to our rural population. Most of our young men and women who were not physically fit to go into actual active military service went to the industrial centres of central Canada. Most of them are not back yet. Our young men will not be entirely demobilized from the three armed forces for at least a year and a half. Surely this should be a sufficient argument to make parliament realize that it would be most unfair to hundreds of thousands of young men and women in this country to carry out redistribution at the present time.