

Redistribution

The immediate subject that I wish to place before you is the reallocation of part of Lincoln county. Because of the very large growth of population in that county, it is apparently regarded as necessary that there be a division of that county. Various plans have been suggested, but the plan which is advocated by our members of the committee is that the westerly part of Lincoln county, including the townships of North Grimsby, South Grimsby, Caistor, Gainsborough and Clinton, should be added to Haldimand to make one riding. The total population of the five townships I have mentioned, in addition to the village of Beamsville, is 16,959. Adding these to the population of Haldimand would give a riding of 41,097.

I have been asked to place this before you as the suggestion of our members of the committee, in view of the fact that this is essentially a rural riding and our members believe that this is a much more logical rearrangement than any other which has been proposed. An examination of the map suggests to me that this would be a very satisfactory rearrangement, because the part of Lincoln county which would be added to Haldimand is a self-contained area with a straight easterly boundary line.

I have read that letter at this time because at the time that this was placed before the Prime Minister it was indicated that there was going to be a division of Lincoln county because of its size. We did not wish to see Haldimand disappear as a riding in the form that it had been and therefore this proposal was made with the suggestion that as a rural riding it would retain a natural association.

Now again I repeat that the Prime Minister has stated here an approach to the problem with which I am sure members are in agreement. The minister who is accepting the responsibility for guiding this measure through the house can give practical proof that the statement of the Prime Minister is a statement which is going to be followed by those who support him and I would hope that even after what has already been said he would agree at this time to refer this subject back to the committee for further consideration.

Mr. Cavers: As reference has been made to the county which I have the honour to represent, the county of Lincoln, by the hon. member for Eglinton and by the hon. leader of the opposition, I think I ought to say a word in connection with the matter now being discussed.

First, it is my opinion, and this has been referred to by several members here today, that the wishes of the people who live in the county should be respected to some extent. In the last week I have received letters from the reeve of the township of North Grimsby, the mayor of the town of Grimsby, the deputy reeve of the township of Clinton, the reeve of the town of Beamsville, the reeve of the township of South Grimsby who is also warden of the county of Lincoln, and the reeve of the county

[Mr. Drew.]

of Gainsborough, expressing their desire that those townships and towns should remain as part of a single constituency made up of the county of Lincoln.

Now, I realize as I think most members realize that voters do not like to be shifted from one constituency into another; from one county into another county, although in many cases it is necessary to be done; but I think where possible it is the interest of the people who reside in the riding that should be considered more than that of the members who represent them. Secondly there is to be considered the question of the interest of the county. Our country is a large country. Some of the constituencies in this house—those in western Canada—are chiefly concerned with wheat. There are other constituencies on the Atlantic seaboard which are concerned solely with fishing. In our own province of Ontario we have the riding represented by the hon. member for Sudbury which is chiefly concerned with mining. There are other constituencies concerned with lumbering, but the constituency that I represent and part of the constituency which it is desired to eliminate from the county of Lincoln is one which is concerned chiefly with fruit growing. They grow cherries, peaches and grapes. The grape growing industry has developed a fine wine industry chiefly in the county of Lincoln. None of those interests are common to the county of Haldimand. Then, more recently we have had a problem of which I have spoken before in this house, the problem of erosion of the shores of lake Ontario. That is a problem with which we have not had rapid success but I am sure we will move gradually towards a more satisfactory arrangement. At this time I might just say that I wish to offer my congratulations to the hon. member for Brant-Wentworth who has co-operated to the full in trying to solve the problem; but that problem is no problem at all for the county of Haldimand.

So, I think the problem of interests must be considered in a redistribution of this kind. Now, I should like to refer to the matter of historic association. Last evening when speaking in the House of Commons the leader of the opposition at page 4080 of *Hansard* stated:

We have the extraordinary fact of Wingham being taken out of that riding and placed in a riding with which it has had no historic association at all.

I might say that in our riding the townships of North Grimsby, South Grimsby, Caistor, Gainsborough and Clinton and the towns of Beamsville and Grimsby have had entirely no historic association with the