

Redistribution

rules of the committee, then let the item stand and we will call it first after the dinner recess.

Paragraph stands.

Paragraph 24, Hastings South, agreed to.

On paragraph 25—Huron-Perth.

Mr. Cardiff: I do not wish to reiterate anything I said the other night. I think I placed my case fairly before the house, and I want to thank the main committee for at least doing something to my riding that they previously would not do, by giving me back three municipalities. I have an amendment I wish to move. Am I allowed to speak on it before I move it? Is that proper?

Some hon. Members: Yes.

Mr. Cardiff: We in the county of Huron have already lost one member as the result of the redistribution that is being carried into effect. In view of the importance of some of the rural ridings that are being taken away, may I say that I do not think rural ridings should be discarded because of the fact that you want to boost representation from the cities. In the light of the importance of farmers in the economic life of the country I think the rural sections should have more representation in the House of Commons. Never in my time as a member, and for that matter never in the history of Canada as far as I can recall, have we been properly represented in the house. I do not think that is fair to agriculture. Many rural ridings are represented by doctors, lawyers and what have you from the larger centres in those ridings who perhaps represent them very well. I am not finding any fault, but when a redistribution takes place I cannot see the elimination of rural ridings for the sake of bolstering representation from the cities.

It is not very hard to represent 100,000 people in a city, but it is a difficult thing to represent half that number or less in the country. In most cases city ridings are not more than ten miles square. My riding as it now stands is 100 miles long and about 40 miles wide. If I am given the opportunity to represent the new riding in the future it will be at least 80 miles wide and more than 100 miles long. I have had requests from people who are going to be taken out of that riding and put into Wellington. They do not want to change, and for that reason I am making this plea this afternoon. I know it is going to be useless. After hearing representation after representation made in the house this afternoon for the purpose of trying to correct some of the injustices that have been created and having seen them turned down, I do not

see any useful purpose in presenting this amendment, but I intend to do so anyway.

The Prime Minister did credit to himself this morning, but I do not think he has done credit to himself this afternoon. There was nobody who did not appreciate the speech the Prime Minister made this morning. I thought it was fair; and if the principles he laid down had been carried out the result would have been just. Nevertheless, this afternoon time after time we have brought forward amendments that would certainly have been an improvement over what has been done but they have been voted down unanimously by members on the other side of the house. I do not think there is anything further I need to say. I have presented my case. I have not said anything I said the other night. I am only doing this because I feel if you are going to eliminate one seat in Huron, then we are entitled to have the new constituency confined within the boundaries of Huron county. It is for that purpose that I move the following amendment:

That item 25 in the schedule to Bill 393 be stricken out and the following be substituted therefor:
"25. Huron consisting of the county of Huron."

The Chairman: Those who are in favour of the amendment will please say "Yea".

Some hon. Members: Yea.

The Chairman: Those opposed will please say "Nay".

Some hon. Members: Nay.

Mr. Fleming: Mr. Chairman, I was on my feet to speak on the amendment when you called for the vote.

An hon. Member: No, it is too late.

Mr. Fleming: I wish to make a brief observation on what is involved in the amendment compared with what is proposed by the committee. I am not going to add anything to the well reasoned and moderate presentation of the case put forth by the hon. member for Huron North both today and on Monday evening. The report of the committee as set forth in the schedule would have involved the union of the present ridings of Huron North and Huron-Perth, but would have taken out of the new riding five townships at the north end which are now represented by the hon. member for Huron North. It would have added to the adjoining riding of Bruce the townships of Ashfield, West Wawanosh and East Wawanosh, and would have added to the present riding of Wellington North the townships of Morris and Grey. It would also have left as a part of the combined riding three townships and one town located within the county of Perth