

*Redistribution*

a letter I received from Mr. Frederick W. Pirie of F. W. Pirie Company Limited in connection with the matter. This letter, dated February 5, 1966, and addressed to me, reads as follows:

As I understand a report of the Electoral Boundaries Commission for New Brunswick may come up for consideration in parliament soon, I would like to give you as our representative for the riding of Victoria-Carleton, my views on this matter.

As you know, the potato belt in this province extends from the northern part of York County through Carleton-Victoria counties, and as far north as St. Leonard in Madawaska County. In other words, the minority report which is appendix Y, takes in Victoria County, Carleton County, part of York County and St. Andre and St. Leonard in Madawaska County.

If a change is to be made in the boundary of the Victoria-Carleton riding, I cannot think of a more perfect way to extend the boundaries than has been outlined in appendix Y, because this would put the New Brunswick potato belt, where the problems are unique and different from the other areas in the province, all in one block and one riding.

A representative could cover the area much better, and much more conveniently, and he would be dealing with problems pretty much uniform throughout his riding.

It would be much easier for us to find a good representative who knows a lot about the problems of this potato belt, which most of the people in the riding are engaged in and depend on for livelihood, than it would be to find someone to properly represent the people of this area, or a portion of this area, and also the fishermen from one of the coastal counties such as Charlotte, or some other part of the province where the economy and conditions are different.

Having lived here all my life, and being deeply engaged in potato processing, potato growing and potato exporting, and as president of the Potato Shippers Association, I strongly recommend the above for your consideration.

Then I have a letter from Mr. J. Stewart Brooks, the M.L.A. for Victoria County which I should also like to put on the record. It is addressed to me, is dated January 24, 1966, and reads as follows:

As the question of the boundaries of the federal constituencies will be discussed in the House of Commons in the near future, I feel some facts in regard to the Victoria-Carleton constituency should be brought to the attention of the members.

If I have been correctly informed, the majority report of the committee in New Brunswick was to the effect that Victoria County and the two northern parishes of Carleton County were to be included with Madawaska County as one constituency, and the balance of the area of Carleton County, with a small area of several counties and all of Charlotte County, was to be another constituency.

The minority report of the committee on federal boundaries was, I believe, to the effect that Carleton and Victoria counties remain as such, with the inclusion of the parishes of St. Leonard and St. Andre on the north and a small area of York County on the south.

[Mr. Flemming.]

The minority report would be much more acceptable in my opinion for the simple fact that it would be entirely made up of a farming area, the most centralized potato growing area in eastern Canada and the problems of the constituency would be of equal importance to all residents in the area. The parishes of St. Leonard and St. Andre have requested the provincial government to have the boundaries of Madawaska and Victoria counties changed so that this area would become part of Victoria county as far as local services are concerned; Grand Falls being the centre for hospital and school services and also being the shipping centre for the area.

The majority report of the Electoral Boundaries Committee would have the effect of dividing the farming and potato growing area, with the northern part being included with Madawaska county, which is more of an industrial and lumbering area, where the common interest would not be the same.

The southern portion of the former constituency of Victoria-Carleton would be included with Charlotte county, which as we all know is primarily engaged in fishing and fish processing and would not have the common interest with the centralized farming area.

This certainly would make it more difficult for any member to give the representation to the constituency which the residents would and should expect.

There are certainly many more advantages in the acceptance of the minority report too numerous to mention.

I sincerely hope that in some way the constituency boundaries can be so arranged that the farming area will be one constituency and able to speak with one voice. Any other solution is certainly not in the best interests of the people.

Then I have from Mr. Porter, whose home is in Andover, a letter which reads as follows:

I noticed that the Victoria county council recently unanimously passed a resolution recommending that Anglin's minority report be implemented in the new electoral districts, which would leave Carleton-Victoria plus two Madawaska and three York parishes, as being the potato area of New Brunswick.

I think you will agree this is a much better arrangement than the Carleton-Charlotte anomaly proposed by the majority report.

That is an extract from Mr. Porter's letter; I will not read it in full. I also have a letter from Mr. Cochrane, county councillor of the Plaster Rock district in Victoria county. His letter is dated July 28, 1965, and he says in part that he, along with many others, is greatly disturbed by the new electoral boundaries for federal ridings, all the more so because Victoria will be divorced from Carleton and married to Madawaska, which he considers would be unreasonable because of their economic situation.

Then he says that the member for Madawaska will undoubtedly come from Edmundston and above St. Leonard there is a marked change in attitudes and interests. He