

Redistribution

agreement. With the exception of our being on different sides politically, the hon. member and I have many things in common. We are neighbours. Each of us has had the privilege of serving our respective municipalities on county councils. I can think of no way in which one can develop a greater pride for his county than through the associations he makes meeting fellow members of county councils.

I know the pride counties have in their history. Each county has something of which it is justly proud. I can remember that for years—and I believe it is still true—we prided ourselves in Wellington county on being the only county in Ontario with no debenture debt. All these are things that happen in the life of any municipality, of which the people are justly proud. The people of Ontario are jealous of their county boundaries, and they do not like to see them destroyed. I sympathize with the hon. member for Huron North when he objects to a part of the county of Huron being included in Wellington to make a new riding. While he may regret that that section of his county has been moved over, I can assure him that it is coming into a perfectly good home and his good friends there will suffer in no way from the move.

This subject of redistribution seems to be approached at times in a selfish manner. Speaker after speaker has referred to the riding he represents as "my riding." I do not think a riding belongs to anybody. We should consider the people making up that riding more than the individual member. I have enjoyed my association with certain members who by reason of redistribution may find it difficult to be members of the next parliament, and of course there may be others as well.

An hon. Member: From all parties.

Mr. Darroch: That is what I mean. Representation by population may be fair and justifiable in connection with urban representation, but when it comes to be applied to a province like Ontario it is absolutely out of date today. I think it belongs to the horse and buggy days. I agree with what the hon. member for Huron North said this afternoon, that rural Ontario could not expect to get the proper representation if we adopted the principle of representation by population. Factors other than boundary lines and population should be taken into consideration when dealing with this matter.

A riding similar to this was suggested a couple of months ago in an editorial in the *Fergus News-Record*. The editor of that paper is outstanding in the weekly newspaper field in this province. I do not know

[Mr. Darroch.]

his politics, but he did suggest that the village of Fergus—it will soon be a town—would be much happier if it were included in Wellington North. He did not criticize the present representation, but he did suggest that they were rather overshadowed by being in the same riding with the city of Guelph.

This riding will be comprised of nine townships, four incorporated towns and four incorporated villages all lying north of highway 86. The rural population will be 16,936 with the urban population totalling 13,536. The charge of gerrymandering can hardly be made in connection with this riding. It might be interesting to note that the section of Huron North which is to be included in the proposed Wellington-Huron riding gave a Liberal majority in 1940 of 128; in 1945 it gave a Conservative majority of 311, and in 1949 it gave a Liberal majority of 23. I think it should be mentioned that the Liberal candidate in the 1949 election lived in Wingham. Like all towns, they were proud of their native son and gave him support regardless of his political affiliation.

I think the committee should be commended for giving another seat to rural Ontario. As I said before, I am quite sure that if it had been left to a judicial or other kind of committee which would have considered only representation by population or county boundaries, rural Ontario would have one less representative here at Ottawa. I do not know whether the new representative will be Liberal or Conservative, but on behalf of the farmers in that area I think I should thank the committee for having added another rural riding.

Mr. Hodgson: I listened to the hon. member for Wellington North eulogizing his constituency, and I do not blame him because it is a good agricultural district; but he seemed to be worrying about the redistribution that will be coming up in Ontario. I do not think he need worry about Mr. Frost and the province of Ontario. I think the last election showed that the people are quite satisfied with him. I believe Mr. Frost and his party are quite capable of looking after the province of Ontario. I feel satisfied that when the redistribution bill comes up in Ontario they will not wield the political axe with the dexterity that has been shown here but will continue good government.

Paragraph as amended agreed to.

On paragraph 66—Wellington South.

Mr. McIlraith: I move:

That the schedule be amended with respect to item 66 (Wellington South) to read "consisting of the city of Guelph and that part of the county of