

*Redistribution*

I believed the objections of the people as placed before the commission should have been taken into consideration. Certainly the commission did take account of some of the objections filed. The commission did make changes after hearing from numerous bodies whose representatives appeared before it after its findings had been made public.

Ancaster includes not only the township but a great village which is sometimes called the dormitory village of the city of Hamilton. A more historic or beautiful village cannot be found in the province. But the people of this area go to Hamilton for all their shopping. They go there to conduct all their business. They go there to attend the sessions of the courts as well as for every matter affecting their daily lives. They do not like being incorporated in the new proposed riding of Brant. They do not have a common background with Brant economically or politically—I do not know about culturally. Certainly they have always looked to Hamilton as the centre of their activities

I turn, now, to the little township of Oakland. Having added the township of Ancaster to the constituency I represent, the commission took away a very small township, the township of Oakland. Oakland is one of the smallest townships, if not the smallest, in the province of Ontario. The people of Oakland were much incensed about this action on the part of the commission—so much so that they circulated a petition and filed it with the Speaker of the House of Commons. It is here for everyone to see.

There are just over 700 electors in the township and more than 500 of them signed this petition to the Speaker of the House of Commons saying they did not want to be taken from the proposed constituency of Brant and put into the new constituency of Oxford. This little township forms a wedge, a wedge which is not without historical significance. I feel that if nothing else is done the wishes of the population of Oakland should be respected. As far as the constituency is concerned, it does not make much difference where the 700 people vote but it does make a great deal of difference to the residents. I am informed that nearly 100 per cent of the electorate would have signed the petition but it was circulated in a hurry so as to get it before the house quickly and it did not reach everyone. Still, more than 75 per cent of the people in Oakland did sign it. In these circumstances, as the member of parliament representing this area at the moment, I feel it

[Mr. Brown.]

is only my duty to make whatever representations I can on behalf of these people.

The inhabitants of Oakland reside within six miles of the centre of Brantford. They go to Brantford for all their business. They go into Brantford for meetings—public meetings and meetings of organized groups. They take part in the affairs of Brant county. They go into the courthouse of Brant county—the county courthouse is situated in the middle of the city of Brantford. Now they have to look to the city of Woodstock and I am told by these people that they do not go to Woodstock for anything. They are asked to select a member of parliament to represent them in the House of Commons from an area dominated largely by the great county of Oxford. They feel they will in some way be cast out—that they will no longer enjoy the kind of representation they have had in this house in the past.

I wish to say a word, now, about one other township, a much larger township with over 2,700 qualified electors, which under this redistribution has also been assigned to Oxford. I am speaking of Burford, and the same feeling exists in Burford as exists in Oakland. These people go to Brantford for everything connected with their business. Ever since 1852 when Brant county was set up, a little later than the other counties, the residents of Burford have gone to Brantford on all their business.

Brant county does seem to form a cohesive unit, I must say. The people of Burford feel that separated from the county with which they have always been associated they are not likely to be represented as effectively, as a unit, as they have in the past. I should like the commissioners to take account of this feeling and act accordingly. I believe they will do so because this commission has, on the whole, done a very good job considering the task placed before it. Some of these decisions do affect my constituents.

I have no quarrel with the name which has been selected—the name “Brant”. In the absence of that name even the people who at the present time compose the electors of my constituency would feel they had been cut off completely. They feel at home with the great name of Brant, so I shall not complain about that decision. I am not complaining about everything the commission has done. I want to commend the commissioners on having put into my present constituency the township of South Dumfries, a great township. The residents come to Brantford for everything. This