

*Redistribution*

feelings of these people than the sorter would have in the average stockyard for sheep.

This is an old tradition. There has been a dual constituency in Prince Edward Island ever since confederation, with the exception of this same short period at the turn of the century when there were five single ridings in the province. Dual ridings in the maritimes have a special application. In the maritime province of Prince Edward Island all of the provincial constituencies represented in the provincial legislature are dual constituencies. People are accustomed to voting for two members. The same is true with variations in both Nova Scotia and in New Brunswick.

I do not see any great difficulty in retaining the dual riding, but I do see a number of advantages in so doing. By retaining the dual riding, and making the proposed constituencies of Malpeque and Hillsborough one, you would retain not only the dual riding but the historic constituency of Queens. The boundaries would not coincide with the county boundaries precisely, but they would approximately, and the constituency would still contain the city of Charlottetown, which has been historically the centre of that dual constituency.

At the same time, it would also automatically solve the problem of the variation in the population of the constituencies about which I have spoken under the title of an earlier objection. It would go a long way toward solving that problem anyway. There would still perhaps be some other adjustments which would have to be made, but it would solve the greatest problem. It would also partially solve the problem of names, because if the dual riding were retained the name of Queens would be the most acceptable, it being the present name.

I am in a slightly difficult position, Mr. Speaker. I have made suggestions which would meet the objections which we have made, but I have no means of knowing whether any or all of them, or none of them, will be acceptable to the commission. Therefore I have to hedge a bit by suggesting alternative improvements if the improvements I have already enumerated are not accepted.

● (5:20 p.m.)

I turn now to the fifth paragraph under our general objection, which refers to other objections that the undersigned members may have. I object, Mr. Speaker, to the approach of the commission in dividing the eastern half

of Prince Edward Island into two constituencies. My objection is to the way that the division was made. While it is true that here you are just west of the city of Charlottetown, and that the division would divide the population of Charlottetown approximately equally into two halves, it does not follow that the methods used by the commission in dividing this eastern half of the population into two constituencies is the most logical one. It would appear that the commission attempted to make a predominantly urban riding and a predominantly rural one. However, they did not succeed in their attempt, because the urban area by itself was not sufficient to constitute a constituency. Therefore, some rural area was added to it.

I should like to point out that the city of Charlottetown is not an urban area in the sense that we think of an urban area, or of an urban constituency which is in the heart of some large highly industrialized metropolitan area which has a community of interest entirely disconnected with that of the surrounding countryside. I should be the first to agree that there is a minimum community of interest between the people of downtown Toronto and those living 40 or 50 miles away in the countryside.

That is not so in the city of Charlottetown. Our province is one whose industries are all primary. Our main industries are agriculture, fishing, and of course the tourist industry. Charlottetown is the administrative and servicing centre, and is also the social and cultural centre for a large rural area. Although it is an urban area, it has a close community of interest with the surrounding countryside this area being chiefly composed of Queens county and Kings county.

I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that a more logical division of the eastern part of Prince Edward Island which has been divided into the constituencies of Cardigan and Hillsborough, could have been made. It could have been divided in a different way. That is one possible solution. It should be remembered that the city of Charlottetown has recently been divided into two provincial ridings, one of them being the eastern part of Charlottetown and suburbs, the other the western half and suburbs. I believe it would have been far more logical to have taken one of these provincial constituencies. What could have been taken is the western part of the city, and that part of Queens county lying south of the Hillsborough river, plus the required number of census divisions which, in Prince

[Mr. MacLean (Queens).]