

out the necessity of preserving the union that has existed between Victoria and Haliburton for many years. I pointed out that they were two old counties, and that while hon. gentlemen opposite are making them one, they constitute two ridings for the legislative assembly of Ontario. I pointed out that the population in these counties is growing. I pointed out that a number of men who were in the habit of going to the lumber woods, and who were not counted in the census, have returned and taken up farms, and have given up lumbering since it has gone above the height of land, and up to Lake Superior. I pointed out in the committee, and also in the House the other day that by the revised statutes of Ontario, chapter 3, which is taken as the basis of this measure, these counties are one and indivisible. I pointed out that the people of Haliburton come to the county of Victoria to trade. I pointed out that the Midland division of the Grand Trunk Railways ends at Haliburton, and that the Irondale, Bancroft and Ottawa Railway runs across the southern part of the riding, bringing people to Tory Hill, which I hope the Prime Minister will visit some day; and Essonville, Gooderham, and Deer Lake are all on that line of the railway. There are no lakes in Scotland or Ireland, not even the Lakes of Killarney, which can surpass in grandeur and beauty, the claim of the lakes in the counties of Haliburton and Victoria. There are only three wagon roads running into the county of Haliburton that do not come from the county of Victoria; one is from Peterborough, one from Hastings, and one from Muskoka. The one from Muskoka is so impassable that it is rarely travelled. Along the west side of the county of Haliburton there is a mountain ridge twelve miles wide that absolutely prevents any wagon roads being made from Muskoka to Haliburton with any degree of ease. When the member for East Peterborough, who lives within fifteen or twenty miles of the village of Deer Lake, wishes to go to Gooderham or Essonville, or to any of the parts of Haliburton which have recently been attached to Victoria, he goes through the town of Lindsay. I have seen him travel 150 miles to hold a meeting at a point within twenty miles of his own riding. The country is very rough and the roads are not opened up. I pointed out the history of the county of Victoria and referred to the distinguished members of parliament, not counting the present member, who in days gone by represented that old historic county. The voters' lists are revised and the courts are held for both Victoria and Haliburton by the same judge; and jurymen from the two counties attend the same courts. In fact, in every point the two counties are one. When we have the population, and I have laid the matter before the Prime Minister fairly and squarely in the hope that having established the

association of the two counties, I can persuade him to give them two members. We cannot force them, we cannot turn out the militia, as the Minister of Finance suggests, and we would not do it if we could. I have faith in responsible government and in the justice and fair-play of hon. gentlemen opposite, and I ask them to give their consideration to the county of Victoria. I might add that the township of Galway was formerly attached to Victoria. It is a very difficult township to canvass from a topographical point of view, as you have to drive all the time, whereas the part of Haliburton which is added to Victoria is all traversed by a railway.

Mr. VROOMAN. I would not like to have the statement of the Prime Minister go on 'Hansard' without correction, as he has evidently misunderstood what I said. In giving the population of the township of Haliburton, he said I had only given nine townships, whereas there are really eighteen. That arose from the way the census was taken. In the census two or three townships are bunched together.

Mr. SPROULE. What is the aggregate population?

Mr. VROOMAN. 6,559. I said that I thought, when the Bill was introduced, that we were going to have a fair redistribution, but that may be owing to my being somewhat green in parliamentary practice. When I heard the personnel of the committee mentioned, and more especially when I found that the Minister of Justice was to be a member of it, I thought that we would certainly have justice and fair-play. One might fairly conclude that the minister holding the portfolio of Justice would do what is right. But under this Bill, an elector in the west riding of Northumberland will have as much influence as regards his vote as three electors in the county of Victoria. One vote in West Northumberland is as effective as three in the county of Victoria.

The PRIME MINISTER. My hon. friend desires justice, but what is the suggestion he makes? The only argument he advances is that under this Bill a vote in West Northumberland is as good as three in Victoria; but suppose we should adopt his proposition, and give Victoria two members and Northumberland one, how would the case stand then? The position would be reversed. Victoria, with 30,000, would elect two members, and West Northumberland, with 19,000, would only elect one. It is impossible to gratify the wishes of my hon. friend. Perhaps it would be equally just to give Northumberland one member and Victoria two, but somebody has to suffer. We have only eighty-six members to go around and have to apportion them out as best we can. Unfortunately, the population of Ontario has not kept pace with that