

*Redistribution*

sever my close and warm connections with the people of Queens county. I was not anxious to have the county of Lunenburg stand alone as a constituency, but that was the arrangement. I may say, Mr. Chairman, that we Nova Scotians often say it is an ill wind that blows no man good. In this instance this redistribution had the result of bringing into public life Dr. Donald Smith, who represents the newly-created constituency of Queens-Shelburne in a manner that does credit both to his constituents and to himself.

Mr. Chairman, we are now faced with another redistribution. I think hon. members of this committee know that the people of Nova Scotia set great store by institutions and arrangements that have been tried and tested by tradition. They also have a fine and well developed sense of justice. Anybody who reads the speeches of Joseph Howe will know exactly what I mean. The proposed arrangement contains both these ingredients of tradition and justice. I have heard no complaint about the arrangement that was put into effect by the redistribution of 1933 or that which was decided upon in the redistribution of 1947 and which has been effective since that election of 1949.

There is of course the disparity in population between Annapolis-Kings on the one hand and Lunenburg on the other. That fact was referred to by Conservative speakers in 1933 just as it is being referred to now. I say again that I personally did not request that Lunenburg as a county and in itself be a constituency, but that was the decision. In the constituency of Annapolis-Kings a considerable part of the increase in population can be attributed to service installations there. I do not need to dwell upon the conditions and elements that apply under those circumstances. This redistribution we are proposing now will tend to reduce the disparity in population rather than to accentuate it, as some hon. members have tried to lead the committee to believe. Perhaps it might be interesting to hon. members if I dealt briefly with the recent history of representation in Nova Scotia and some of the reasons for the committee's decision.

The county of Digby was first split in the redistribution of 1914. The division of this county goes back that far. This redistribution became effective in the election of 1917, when our representation was reduced from 18 to 16 seats. At that time Digby municipality became associated with Annapolis county to form the constituency of Digby-Annapolis. Clare was joined to Yarmouth county to form the new federal constituency of Yarmouth-Clare. This, of course, was done under a Conservative government. Following

the 1925 redistribution, the representation was reduced from 16 to 14 seats. In the election of the same year Queens county was joined with Lunenburg county for the first time to form the federal constituency of Queens-Lunenburg. The other constituencies in western Nova Scotia at that time became Digby-Annapolis and Shelburne-Yarmouth.

The redistribution of 1933 became effective with the election of 1935, when representation was reduced again from 14 to 12 seats. Queens remained with Lunenburg county and continued to form the constituency of Queens-Lunenburg. Digby county was again split into two municipalities with Clare being part of the new constituency of Shelburne-Yarmouth-Clare and Digby forming part of the newly-created constituency of Digby-Annapolis-Kings. This too was done under a Conservative government. The redistribution of 1947 increased the representation from 12 to 13 seats. With the next election in 1949, Lunenburg became a constituency by itself for the first time since prior to the election of 1925. All Digby county became associated with Yarmouth to form the constituency of Digby-Yarmouth; the two counties of Annapolis and Kings were associated to form the constituency of Annapolis-Kings for the first time.

The two municipalities of Digby have been in different constituencies for 20 of the last 38 years, and Digby county in whole or in part has been associated with Annapolis county for 33 of the past 38 years.

Queens has been associated with Lunenburg county to form the constituency of Queens-Lunenburg for 24 of the past 27 years.

In recommending the constituency arrangement in this redistribution, the committee is following precedents which are firmly established and have been found to be workable and congenial.

When the new arrangement is analysed from the point of view of population, and on the basis of 1951 statistics, it is found that the reconstituted constituency of Shelburne-Yarmouth-Clare has a population of 45,595, compared to the present population of 42,783 for Digby-Yarmouth. This is an increase of 2,812, or 7 per cent. Digby-Annapolis-Kings will have a population of 66,510 against the present population of 54,930 for Annapolis-Kings. This is an increase of 11,580 or 20 per cent. Queens-Lunenburg will have a population of 45,800 as against 33,256 for the present constituency of Lunenburg. This is an increase of 12,544 or 36 per cent. It will be seen that on both a numerical and a percentage basis the increase in the constituency of