

*Redistribution*

which feels very strongly that dual ridings should be done away with. I recognize that under the circumstances perhaps the most acceptable compromise has been arrived at, and perhaps the committee in dealing with the problem has done the best that could be hoped for; but I still feel there is a great deal of room for improvement, and if I were to compliment the committee on this I do not think I would be completely justified. I recognize that the chairman of the sub-committee that dealt with this, and also the chairman of the general committee, are men whom I can sincerely congratulate on many occasions. But if I were to congratulate them on this occasion for this effort I am afraid I would be something less than sincere.

Paragraph 1, Kings, agreed to.

Paragraph 2, Prince, agreed to.

Paragraph 3, Queens, agreed to.

Prince Edward Island schedule agreed to.

**The Chairman:** We shall now deal with the province of Manitoba.

On the schedules—Manitoba.

On paragraph 1—Brandon-Souris.

**Mr. Fleming:** Mr. Chairman, I cannot let item No. 1 pass without again expressing very great regret that the government majority has seen fit to coalesce these two ridings of Brandon and Souris for the purpose of eliminating a riding now held by the Progressive Conservatives. The matter has had extended discussion during the past several days. I do not intend to repeat the arguments and criticisms and condemnation that have been properly levelled at the government for doing what they have done in this matter.

**Mr. Bryce:** As one of the members who have had their constituency removed from the map of Manitoba I have just a few remarks I would like to make at this time.

First I want to say how pleased I am that the committee has at least retained the name of Selkirk in the Manitoba schedule. In the redistribution previous to this that riding took a bad beating. In this redistribution it has been completely wiped out. I am convinced that no government, either provincial or federal, would dare remove the name Selkirk from the Red river valley, no matter what else they may do to it. And it gives me great pleasure to see the historical name of Selkirk retained, a name which will always be associated with the hardy Scottish pioneers who settled in the Red river valley.

Despite the fact that the people I have represented since coming to the House of

[Mr. MacLean (Queens).]

Commons are now distributed amongst about seven different ridings, I am not complaining because I am convinced that the new boundaries that have been drawn for the riding of Selkirk will contain the same kind of people with the same high intelligence and the same keen desire for honest representation, and that when the next election rolls around they will use their intelligence and franchise to the end that the man who represents them will carry their banner with honour and dignity.

While I regret very much having the people I have represented since coming to the House of Commons allocated to other ridings, I am delighted to have had the privilege of representing them in this house for at least a few years. And I am certainly not taking the attitude that I am going to be obliged to run in a foreign country. I know the committee had a difficult job to do, and they did a first-class job on me. Nevertheless it was done in accordance with the rules of the game as they are now laid down, and somebody had to get hurt. But having been brought up on a diet of oatmeal, my shoulders are broad and I look to the future with confidence. I am thankful that God has granted me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference.

**Mr. Weir:** Mr. Chairman, I did not wish to enter the debate at this time, and perhaps my doing so will not be very useful. But after listening to the hon. member for Eglinton express himself with respect to the redistribution in Manitoba I thought I should point out to him that he should have gone back a little further.

I happen to be one of those who got the axe in the last redistribution. While hon. members have been referring to certain constituencies in Manitoba in this redistribution, none of them apparently has seen fit to refer to the fact that the constituency of Macdonald completely disappeared at the time of the last redistribution, and was joined to another Liberal constituency.

As my hon. friend from Selkirk has said, that is part of the game and we accepted it at that time. I do not think any other course was open, just as there has been no other course open in the present instance. I could go further and say that, so far as I am personally concerned in this redistribution, I have lost territory that I had since 1930, and that as a result of this many of my closest and best friends have now been moved over to another constituency. So the argument as to how redistribution affects individuals in the house is not by any means all on one side.