

Redistribution

of 36,221 according to the census figures, and that unquestionably is quite adequate for a riding of this very large area.

There was in my submission no reason for tampering with the historic riding of Frontenac-Addington. It has 26 townships and two islands. One would have thought that was quite enough, considering the large area, to warrant it being left alone with a population of 36,221. But what the majority on the committee have proposed, Mr. Chairman, is that the riding of Kingston City should be enlarged by the inclusion therein of three townships lying immediately north of the city, and two islands, Wolfe and Howe, lying immediately south of the city; and that the remaining 21 townships of the present riding of Frontenac-Addington be united with the present riding of Hastings-Peterborough, which is today the largest in the southern part of Ontario. There is no riding south of Parry Sound-Muskoka that can compare with it in size, and it has a population of 26,324. One would have thought there was not much occasion for interfering with the riding, considering the immense area it covers. But what the majority on the committee have done is to propose that 21 townships out of the present riding of Frontenac-Addington be added to the present 28 townships of the riding of Hastings-Peterborough to form the new riding of Hastings-Frontenac, consisting of 49 townships.

I realize that to members from western Canada 49 townships do not sound like a very excessive total. But to members from the older and settled parts of Ontario, as in this part of eastern Ontario, 49 townships represent a huge area, particularly when it is recalled that access to parts of this area is very difficult. What opposition members on the Ontario subcommittee and in the main committee proposed in this respect was that Frontenac-Addington be left alone; that there was no occasion for tampering with Hastings-Peterborough, but if a riding had to be found in that area we said that a more just and equitable result could be achieved by certain changes farther west. We indicated a proposal which would have achieved a much more equitable result, both in terms of area and population included in the ridings affected. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I am moving this amendment which will have the effect of preserving the riding of Frontenac-Addington in its present form. The amendment I am presenting, seconded by the hon. member for Lambton West, is as follows:

That the schedule to Bill 393 be amended by inserting the following after item 14 on page 8 [Mr. Fleming.]

thereof and renumbering the subsequent items accordingly:

- "15. Frontenac-Addington consisting of
 (a) the county of Frontenac excluding the city of Kingston; and
 (b) that part of the county of Lennox and Addington contained in the townships of Camden, Sheffield, Denbigh, Abinger, Ashby, Effingham, Anglesea and Kaladar, and the village of Newburgh."

Following the adoption of this amendment, with the support of all fair-minded members of the committee, I shall have a similar amendment which will have the effect of preserving the riding of Hastings-Peterborough without change.

This is the nub of the problem, and I sum up in these words: Is it fair and proper that a rural riding with a very large area, comprising three counties, the county of Frontenac and the united counties of Lennox and Addington, with a population of 36,221—ample, surely, to warrant its continuance as a riding, particularly in the light of the large area it embraces—should be carved up in the way that is proposed in the majority report? In the result the riding will be by far the largest in southern Ontario.

Mr. McIlraith: No, no.

Mr. Fleming: It is the largest riding, by far, in southern Ontario. It is larger than anything south of Parry Sound-Muskoka.

Mr. McIlraith: No, no. Victoria is as large, Renfrew North is as large. Parry Sound-Muskoka is larger.

Mr. Fleming: By the time the majority get through with it, this will become an empire. This riding of Hastings-Frontenac now becomes a riding embracing most of the three counties I mentioned, a veritable empire. It consists of 49 townships, some of which are difficult of access. And, if you wish to have comparisons to test the fairness of creating a riding that size, I can give them. The proposed new riding would have a population of 43,741.

Mr. Dewar: How many square miles?

Mr. Fleming: To tell the truth I have lost track of that. It becomes a riding 80 miles wide east and west, and in the north and south dimensions it runs up to 80 miles—

Mr. Fraser: No, 110 miles.

Mr. Fleming: My hon. friend says it is 110 miles. I say to my hon. friend from Saskatchewan that, in the old and settled part of Ontario, that is an empire. It cannot be compared with Saskatchewan standards, where you have townships by the hundreds.

Mr. Dewar: What is the population of that area?