

## **False Arguments Answered**

An excuse that has been offered for the wiping out of Russell is that by merging North and South Lanark, the Conservatives are losing a seat, and that by merging Leeds and Brockville they are losing another seat. This excuse implies that all four Ridings have been consistently and safely Conservative. Such is not the fact.

In the case of North Lanark, there have been 5 elections since 1896. Of these, the Liberals won the election of 1904. In 1900 the Conservatives won, after a recount, by 7 votes. In 1908 there was another recount and the Conservatives won by 6 votes. North Lanark, therefore, cannot truthfully be described as a safe seat for either party.

In the case of Brockville there have been 7 elections since 1896. Of these the Liberals won 4 and the Conservatives 3. In view of this record, Brockville cannot truthfully be described as a Conservative seat.

Nor is the argument drawn from the merging of other counties in other parts of Ontario any more sound. In every instance the counties so merged have small populations and nothing else could be done. But the very reverse is the case in Russell, with its large population of 39,434. That population makes it one of the largest rural constituencies in Ontario.

### **Conclusion**

It has been pointed out to members of the Redistribution Committee that by leaving Russell untouched a perfectly fair readjustment of seats can be made in the eastern part of Ontario. As the working out of details is in the hands of the Committee, it is not intended to discuss them in this presentation of their case by the people of Russell, who desire to preserve their own political identity. But it may be added that the suggestions made to members of the Committee do not ex-