

to the proposed bill for the redistribution of seats, and spoke of it as a gerrymander bill. It is not a gerrymander bill; the object is to repeal a measure of that sort. Unfortunately many years ago the system of gerrymandering constituencies so as to give a minority an opportunity of returning a majority to a legislature was adopted by our neighbours over the way. That system was carefully excluded from this country until 1882, and in 1882 my hon. friend opposite and his colleagues undertook to solve the problem in the United States way. We propose to put an end to that. It would be advantageous perhaps from a party point of view—although I think it would be demoralizing to the public sentiment of the country—if we were to retaliate and adopt the policy of those who controlled the government of this country in 1882. But we do not propose to do that. We propose to put an end to the gerrymandering system. We say that you shall pay regard to county boundaries, that these shall not be broken, that, where a county is entitled to more than one representative, you may divide it into two divisions. If entitled to more than two, into three ridings, but you must make your electoral division within the limits of the boundaries established by the county. Now, across the boundary in some of the newer states of the United States Union they have a special provision in their state constitutions that there shall be no gerrymander, and to secure the result they provide that when the census is taken and a new distribution of seats takes place, the county boundaries shall be unbroken, and the fragments of different counties shall not be put together for the purpose of forming a constituency. In adopting this rule over the way, and in adopting that rule here, we are simply following the ancient tradition of the United Kingdom. Hon. gentlemen will remember that in the United Kingdom there is no such thing as constituencies made up of fragments of different counties. You have the borough divisions and you have the county ridings, but each riding forms a portion of a single county. It does not form a portion of several counties, and in that way the historical traditions of the representation of the county has been preserved and it has exercised, as stated by Mr. Gladstone and by Lord Salisbury, a healthful influence over the representation in the future. Constituencies that a century

ago were represented by the great Earl of Chatham, when Mr. Pitt, by his son, Mr. Pitt, by Mr. Fox, have a pride to-day in referring to the fact that in times gone by these men who played so important a part in the House of Commons and in the government of the Empire were representatives of their district, and it exercises a healthful and beneficial influence over them in the selection of representatives to-day. The effect of such a historic tradition is advantageous to the community, for whatever we may do in the way of legislation and especially in the way of constitutional legislation, should be aimed to draw people upwards and not to drag them down. The principle, hon. gentlemen, will find set out by Sir John Macdonald, in a speech addressed to the House of Commons in 1872. He points out that it is important, where men are in the habit of co-operation for any public object, for the administration of justice, say as jurymen, in their agricultural associations, in their municipal organizations, that the same men, thus forming an acquaintance with each other, thus becoming personally acquainted with the abilities of the more promising men amongst them, should have an opportunity of selecting such for their representatives in the House of Commons. But if you cut off a township from one county and attach it to two or three townships in another county, you may take off from the county the most promising, the most influential, the most useful man of the county and put him in a constituency where outside of his own township he has no acquaintance whatever. No matter which party he may belong to, you doom him to private life, you deny him that opportunity which his abilities would enable him to secure and which his abilities entitle him to, if you respected county boundaries, and if you gave him the chance to which he is entitled. I say that in proposing to return to the principle of observing county boundaries in a distribution of seats, we are not introducing anything novel. We are not gerrymandering the country. We are undertaking to undo what has been done in that regard and give every man, whether in or out of Parliament, a fair chance for his life, the opportunity of making his own fortune. Now, my hon. friend says that if we adopt that principle we do not secure equal electoral divisions, but I tell my hon. friend that when this subject was under discussion in