

measure became public, that representations are made that it will not be sufficiently injurious to the Reform party. There have been gatherings in the two ridings of Huron which are to be affected by this Bill; there has been a consideration of this question; deputations have been sent down here, and communications have been forwarded with a statement that the results are not what the hon. gentleman anticipates, and what his friends in the localities would desire, and that for this purpose other changes in Huron were required, and the hon. gentleman is now proposing to carry those other changes. He is carrying out the changes which were proposed by the local wire-pullers, and by those who were interested in securing, if they can, the representation of the two ridings of Huron which have, on the whole, a very large Reform majority over the whole county. He has altered this measure, I say, in this way, adding still further to the strength of the Reform majority, in the riding which he must leave to the Reformers, and weakening their strength in the other two ridings—not on account of the geographical considerations which were obvious the whole time, and which the hon. gentlemen knew as well as they do to-day, which could not have been overlooked, which were before those which prepared this Bill, but on account of the political view of the situation which the local persons have taken since the Bill was brought down, and on account of representations made to the effect that the object will not be accomplished; but while the hon. gentleman weakens himself by proposing the measure in the shape in which it is brought down, he does not sufficiently strengthen himself in the county of Huron to accomplish what he hoped to accomplish, and that therefore some further gerrymandering is required; and these alterations to this clause are the product of these representations, and are designed to carry out that object; they are not designed to carry out these obvious considerations which the hon. gentleman referred to, and which were always before him, but they are designed to carry out the political objects which this Bill has in view.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved an amendment that East Huron consist of Howick, Turnberry, Grey and Monas, the town of Wingham and the Villages of Brussels, Blythe and Wroxeter.

Mr. BLAKE. I do not know whether the hon. member for North Huron (Mr. Farrow) has any observations to make on the substitution of East for North.

Mr. FARROW. I came to the conclusion, when the hon. member for West Durham was addressing the House, that nothing would suit him. If you go on the principle of representation by population, that does not suit him. If you go on the principle of making a riding compact, that does not suit him. If you go to the right he says you should go to the left, and if you go to the left he says you should go to the right; if you go forward he says turn backward. Since I have had the honor of representing North Huron I have found that such has been the hon. gentleman's course in Parliament—no hon. member in this House has greater respect for the hon. gentleman than I have; but I must say that I am speaking consistently when I tell him that he is entirely wrong in his remarks about the division of the Hurons. The hon. gentleman has spoken as if the north riding was in favor of a change, just as if they thought their case was a bad one unless something was done. The contrary is the fact. I can inform the hon. gentleman that there was a convention held at Wingham on the 4th, and from what I could learn they are quite content to leave the riding as it is. No doubt there was some talk about changes as to the compactness of the riding and as to the population. The hon. member for West Durham must know that my riding has geographically increased very largely since the change took place in 1872. He must know that in North Huron there are several

Mr. BLAKE.

villages and one large town that did not exist ten years ago, such as Wingham, which now has a population of nearly 2,500, and the growing villages of Blythe and Russell; and when you take it into consideration it is evident a consideration must be made. I must say, and I say it candidly, and above board, that I have had no hand in this thing. I am placed in a worse position I think. They have given me the township of Grey, one of the strongest strongholds of the hon. member for Centre Huron, a township they say will give 250 Grit votes. If it gives that number I do not want to go into the riding. The hon. member for West Durham will find that the east riding is very compact, geographically speaking, and the west and south ridings are in the same position. The hon. gentleman will not deny that they are compact.

Mr. BLAKE. I am told so.

Mr. FARROW. You will not deny that the populations are nearly equal.

Mr. BLAKE. From what the hon. gentleman says, I cannot deny that.

Mr. FARROW. Then you cannot complain.

Mr. BLAKE. Yes; I can.

Mr. FARROW. I say that you cannot please the hon. gentleman, for you cannot divide Huron into three more compact ridings. As regards the effect of this Bill on myself, it will not benefit me at all. Now, I do not know anything about this rearrangement or what hon. gentlemen call gerrymandering. I probably am too humble an individual, but at any rate I have had nothing to do with it, and I hope the hon. gentleman will not blame me, though I think the Government has divided Huron up into three ridings, the most compact and satisfactory that could be obtained.

Mr. BLAKE. The mode in which the hon. gentleman divided Huron into three ridings was, by first of all taking off 10,000 population, putting so much to one county and so much to another county, and dividing the remainder into three ridings, so that now the county of Huron forms part of five ridings. I admit that the hon. gentleman has lost as well as gained. I will be as frank as he. He gains in political strength all the political strength in a new riding, but he loses in his individual strength, because he has less chance for nomination than before. While the hon. gentleman says—and I accept his statement not merely in a parliamentary, but in every sense—that he had nothing to do with the proposed change, he will not deny that the local Conservatives, leading Conservatives in the ridings, have had to do with it; he will not deny that it was discussed at that convention of which he speaks, and which was held a week ago; he will not deny that there were communications with Mr. Gregg, Dr. Holmes, and perhaps some others on that subject by letter or otherwise, and that the change has taken place in accordance with the views of the local leaders of the Conservative party in Huron. If he denies these things he denies statements which I have, on very respectable authority, that is now on the Table before me.

Mr. FARROW. The hon. gentleman ignores the great growth of Huron as a whole. The county of Huron was too large for three members.

Mr. BLAKE. What about the Greys?

Mr. FARROW. I have nothing to do with the Greys. I have plenty of work to look after my own county. My riding had a population of something like 27,500, and therefore, I think the Government was quite right when they saw this great surplus population, in taking some off. They might have taken some off in the north, but there was no chance there, and the only way of equalizing the population was by taking off these two townships in