

Dominion Parliament

Redistribution Bill Introduced in the Commons by Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

The Measure Criticised—The Premier Replies to Sir Charles Tupper.

Ottawa, May 20.—The government Redistribution Bill was introduced yesterday in the House of Commons. Its provisions were fully explained, and from the tone of the Opposition criticism it was apparent that the measure will, in its passage through the House, meet with the strenuous opposition of the Conservative party.

Base of Representation. In rising to propose the reading of the bill the Prime Minister announced that he did so through the absence of the Postmaster-General, Mr. Mulock, with the object of expediting the public business, and in order not to disappoint the very legitimate impatience of the public with regard to the measure. He would say at once that the object in view was not to make a total redistribution of the electoral districts. The government had deemed that it would not be expedient at this time to do more than to undo as far as possible some of the most glaring violations of a principle which was universally held to be a fundamental principle of representation in this country—representation on the basis of municipal county organization. It was within the memory of all that this principle was first interfered with to a large extent in the redistribution of 1882. The action of that day constituted a violation of the principle which had prevailed up to that time, maintained by Conservatives and Liberals alike.

Sir John Macdonald's Words. There were many reasons why the municipal county organizations should be preserved as the basis of representation and on this point he could not do better than quote the opinion expressed by Sir John A. Macdonald in the first redistribution of 1872, when he said that it was desired as much as possible to keep the representation within the county, so that each county which is a municipality of Ontario should be represented, and when it became large enough it might be divided into ridings. That rule was followed at Confederation, and in the case of its infraction, in 1882, in the three constituencies of Bothwell, Cardwell and Monck, the experience had further remarked that it was advisable that counties which were kept intact as a means of guarding against the introduction of the American plan of caucuses and wire-pulling with the end that counties should refuse men whom they did not know. From the wisdom of Sir John Macdonald's remarks of that day nobody would have thought of dissenting. Though in 1882 this principle had been departed from, it did not appear that Sir John had himself gone back on his views, and Sir Wilfrid felt that to-day the country would be prepared to come back to the adoption of those views.

The Guardian Principle. Another principle, Sir Wilfrid thought, should prevail whenever a redistribution of constituencies was to be made. According to the constitution it becomes an obligatory duty of Parliament after a new census to make a redistribution. This duty being imperative, it becomes most important Parliament should adhere to the well-known principles hitherto laid down and accepted when it becomes the duty of Parliament to interfere in any way with the representation. The just principle which the government would lay down was that municipal county organizations shall be the basis of representation and that consequently county boundary lines should be followed, and if the population of a county should become so small according to the development of population in other counties as to no longer justify its representation by one member, then the government proposed that the county should not be separated piecemeal, but it should be annexed to the neighboring county, as was done in the cases of Cornwall and Stormont, Lincoln and Niagara, Chambly and others. In all of these cases county lines were not interfered with, and these, the government considered, were precedents which could with advantage be adhered to. This was a case, however, which he recognized was not likely to happen often. The principle which Sir Wilfrid laid down was that whenever a county which up to that time had been entitled to one member became entitled to two of the three members the division should take place by judicial decision and authority.

Exceptions in Ontario. After these preliminary observations as the guiding principle upon which the government acted, the Prime Minister set forth the following list of constituencies which it was not proposed to disturb at present: Ottawa, Carleton, Addington, Durham, Frontenac, Glengarry, Grenville, Halton, Hastings, Kingston, Lanark, Leeds, Lennox, Addington, Nipissing, Northumberland, Peterborough, Prince Edward, Renfrew, Russell, Stormont and Cornwall, Victoria and Waterloo. These remain undisturbed. In the remarks of Sir John Macdonald quoted above, he had said that county lines had been interfered with in three instances at Confederation—Cardwell, Monck and Bothwell. One of these (Monck) has already been redistributed and it is now proposed that Cardwell and Bothwell shall disappear, and with these West Ontario. It is also proposed that Middlesex, which now has three members, shall only have two, which at the time shall be decided by giving representation to the county of Dufferin and to the electoral district of Parry Sound and two additional members to Kent.

Mr. Bergeron—That will be three members for Kent. Sir Wilfrid Laurier—Yes, that takes out part of Bothwell. The bill proposes to restore county lines to the following counties: Brant, Bruce, Elgin, Gray, Haldimand, Huron, Kent, Lambton, Lanark, Middlesex, Norfolk, Ontario, Oxford, Peel, Simcoe, Welland, Wellington, Wentworth and York. Changes in Ontario. To give these representation the details would have to be as follows—taking the changes just indicated: The electoral district of the city of London will consist entirely of London and return one member. The electoral district of the city of Hamilton will consist of the city of Hamilton, and return two members. The electoral district of the city of Toronto will consist of the city of Toronto, and will be divided into four electoral districts, each to return one member. The counties of Dufferin, Haldimand, Lincoln, Peel, Welland, and Wentworth and the territorial district of Parry Sound will each be an electoral district and return each one member. The counties of Brant, Elgin, Lambton, Norfolk, Ontario, Oxford, Perth will each be divided into two electoral districts, which districts will return each one member. The counties of Kent, Huron, Bruce, Gray, Middlesex, Simcoe, Wellington and York will each be divided into three electoral districts, each of which districts will return one member. Division of Counties. The provisions of the bill in regard to the judicial division of the counties into ridings provides for the appointment of a board of commissioners to consist of at least three judges of the Supreme Court of judicature of Ontario, who will be appointed by letters patent and divide Toronto and each of the counties affected by the ridings. The commissioners in making the divisions will consider the distribution of population according to the last Dominion census, the public convenience and such divisions as may appear to them the best calculated to do substantial justice. In the case of the death or resignation or refusal of any one to act, a successor will be in a like manner appointed. The divisions are to be completed within a time to be limited by letters patent, and the commissioners will report the divisions to the secretary of state, making a separate report in each case. The bill is not to come into force so long as the present parliament continues. Sir Charles Tupper—But the judicial arrangement applies to this bill. The Prime Minister—Yes, it is part of this bill. Each report shall be signed by the commissioner or in case of disagreement by a majority of them, and the majority report will be the report of the commissioners. Each separate report will be published in the Canada Gazette. The Province of Quebec. In regard to the province of Quebec it is not proposed to make any alterations in the representation as it exists to-day, except in so far as is necessary to bring back the different municipalities which had been transferred in the redistribution act of 1882, from one county to another. Thus the parish of L'Assomption, which for all purposes, municipal, judicial and otherwise, belongs to the county of Berthier, but which by the act of 1882 was transferred to L'Assomption, is restored to Berthier. The same applies to the Indian village and reserve of Caughnawaga, which is transferred from Chateauguay to L'Assomption and Napierville. Mr. Bergeron—But under the new franchise act the Indians have no right to vote there. The Prime Minister—They have no right to vote, and I do not think that effects the case one way or the other, but in order to be consistent we place Caughnawaga where it belongs. The parish of Lacolle, together with the islands situated in the Richelieu river opposite thereto, is transferred from Missisquoi to St. Jean and Ivesville, to which it belongs for all purposes, municipal and judicial. The parishes of Notre Dame de Stanbridge and Notre Dame des Anges de Stanbridge, together with the island opposite in the Richelieu river, are transferred from St. Jean and Ivesville to Missisquoi. The parish of St. Pie is transferred from Rouville to Bagot. The parish of St. Marcel is transferred from Bagot to Richelieu. The parish of St. Eugene de Grantham, now in Bagot electoral district, is transferred to Drummond and Arthabaska. The parish of St. Nazaire and St. Charles Bagot are transferred to Richelieu. The parish of St. Helene, St. Eugene, St. Loebe, St. Pie, St. Rose, St. Simon, St. Theodore d'Acton, St. Dominique, St. Nazaire and St. Christine. The parishes of St. Guillaume d'Upton and St. Bonaventure d'Upton are transferred from Drummond and Arthabaska to Yamaska. This is done because the parishes for federal purposes belong to the county of Yamaska. The parishes of St. Eulalie and St. Samuel will be and form part of the electoral district of Nicolet. All that part of the township of Stanford, to wit:

to restore county lines to the following counties: Brant, Bruce, Elgin, Gray, Haldimand, Huron, Kent, Lambton, Lanark, Middlesex, Norfolk, Ontario, Oxford, Peel, Simcoe, Welland, Wellington, Wentworth and York.

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The twelve lots in the three first ranges of the townships, which are in the parish of Notre Dame de Leonard, are transferred from Drummond and Arthabaska to Megantic. All this for the same reason.

In Prince Edward Island. Coming down to the province of Prince Edward Island, the following arrangement is made to provide there, as elsewhere, the county lines. There will be three electoral districts. Prince will consist of the county of Prince, and return two members. Queen's will consist of the county of Queen's, and return two members. King's will consist of the county of King's, and return one member.

New Brunswick. With regard to the province of New Brunswick no changes are contemplated with the exception of the city of St. John, which, as everybody knows, is in a peculiar condition. An elector in the city of St. John has two votes. He votes first for St. John, and then he votes for a member for the city and county of St. John. It is proposed to do away with this, and to have two electoral districts, one for the city and one for the county of St. John.

Nothing in the bill is to operate so as to change the constitution of the electoral districts as they now exist until the dissolution of the present parliament. In conclusion, the Prime Minister hoped that these provisions of the bill would commend themselves to both sides of the House, and above all, to the country.

THE BILL CRITICISED. Sir Charles Tupper is Above's, and Announces the Premier's Answer.

Sir Charles Tupper followed. He felt that it was quite impossible to deal at any length with the bill at this stage. He had expected that the Prime Minister would have given to the House his reasons for, on this first time in the history of Canada, following this procedure. He had asked to him a confession that the government was afraid to go back to the electorate from whom it had attained office in an accidental way, through appeals to passion and prejudice on the school question. The by-elections, however, had been won by fraudulent means. North Huron and Brockville were alike examples of this fraud. There voters were won by a brigade of ruffians, headed by a minister of the crown. The Liberal party, besides using public funds and patronage in its own interests, had adopted a corrupt franchise, and would now, to its own injury, justify upon the country. In the present bill Ontario is to be torn to pieces for party advantage, while Quebec, which seems strongly Liberal, is left alone. But in spite of all these efforts, the Liberal party would, he predicted, be swept out of office at the next general election.

The Premier's Reply. The Premier rose to his feet when Sir Charles had concluded. The leader of the opposition, he found, had already shown this session that he was no longer able to discuss, but only to abuse, and to use language so scurrilous as to be unworthy even of Billingsgate itself. It had become a man to talk as Sir Charles had, who had asked the people of Winnipeg not to place power in the hands of a French Canadian who had been a Catholic, of whom should show itself upon his brow signs of the attempt to fasten charges upon men much better than himself. The leader of the opposition had charged that the Liberal party had obtained power by corruption, and had won its elections through the lavish use of money, private and public.

Sir Charles Tupper—Hear, hear. Sir Wilfrid charged that the Conservative party had itself introduced bills to redistribute constituencies in years when there had been no census taken. The justification for the measure was that it was simply to undo a great wrong, done the people of Ontario in 1882. Other Opinions. Mr. Clarke Wallace contended that the bill was a scientific attempt to destroy the political party to which he belonged. Even the Ontario law did not equal it in stifling public opinion. Col. Diddle contended that the provision for calling in the judges was a farce pure and simple. The judges could not divide the counties following out their instructions, as conveyed in the bill without deserting to the disadvantage of the Conservative party. The result, in his constituency, would be to endanger his seat. County boundaries should not in any case override representation by population. Mr. Henderson asked, in order to gain the representation, the judges would be permitted to divide the townships and put the one half in the one riding and the other half elsewhere.

The Premier replied that that was a point he had not considered. The instructions of the judges were general, and cannot but be general. The duty of the judges would be to divide the townships into the distribution of the population, as determined at the last census, and the convenience of the public. This is the guiding principle they have been instructed to follow.

The Premier, in answer to a question by Mr. John Ross Robertson, Toronto, stated that the question of a unit of population did not enter into the case, as the basis was simply one of municipal and county organizations. Dr. Montague thought if the principle of returning to county boundaries was good enough in some cases, it would be good enough in all.

The Prime Minister—if you want it applied to all, I have no objection. Mr. Bergeron denied that the division of Argenteuil in 1885 was a precedent for this measure. Mr. George Taylor, the Conservative whip, announced that he was ready to sit in the House till Christmas to prevent the government taking the life out of the Conservative party.

Mr. Bennett (East Simcoe)—Was ready to keep up the fight till the snow flies. Redeeming the Liberal Pledge. Sir Richard Cartwright assumed the position that the Liberal party in this matter acted upon a mandate from the people. The principle of representation by population was well enough between the provinces, but not necessary to the same extent between constituencies.

DEVOTED TO OTHER BUSINESS. At the evening sitting of the House a number of private bills passed. On the bill for divorce to David Stock, of Toronto, Mr. John Charlton entered a protest against the mode of granting divorces, and advocated the institution of a divorce court.

The Minister of Finance introduced his bill to amend the Banking Act to allow of the issue by Canadian banks of notes in the currency of other British colonies where they may wish to do business, the notes will be redeemable only in the bank of the colony where they are issued.

Mr. Belling referred to the opening in the Bank of Nova Scotia of a branch in Jamaica. The government had thought it better to deal with the matter in a general act, as the bank is solvent its notes will be redeemable only in the particular colony in which they are issued. The bill was referred to the committee on Banking and Commerce.

Railway Legislation. The Minister of Railways secured the second reading of his bill to amend the Railway Act, which will be incorporated in the general act, a couple of clauses being placed in all railway bills. The Minister of Finance's bill to amend the Banking Act was given its second reading and sent to the Committee on Banking and Commerce. On motion to go into supply, Sir Herbert Tupper moved his request for returns. The House continued in supply till 12:20 a.m., passing a couple of items.

IN THE SENATE. The Senate is responsible for the killing of one more government measure. At yesterday's sitting in committee to amend the Exchequer Court Act, Sir Mackenzie Bowell took the position that it gave power to enforce the Expropriation Act as rejected by the Senate on Thursday. The Hon. David Mills, who had charge of the measure, said that he did not differ in principle from the act as it now stood on the statute book. There was no reason why the Crown should not be able to take property for a term of years or take only a limited estate where it was necessary. A long discussion followed, during which the Hon. David Mills regretted the disposition of the House with respect to this bill.

An amendment of Sir Mackenzie Bowell's to strike out the clause was carried on a vote of nineteen yeas to thirteen nays. The Hon. David Mills then moved that the committee rise. The committee then rose, killing the bill, but not reporting. The Senate meets again on Monday.

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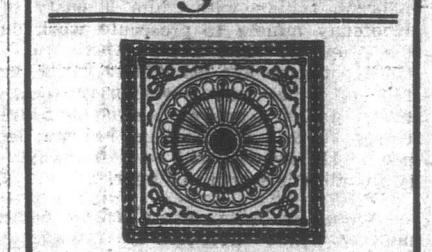
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CHRONIC CONSTIPATION Two Cures by Dr. Sproule



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Are you discouraged trying to cure your Chronic Constipation? There are many thousands like you. That is because the Chronic Constipation is caused by Catarrh of the Liver, and only a Catarrh Specialist can cure it. Dr. Sproule, the eminent English specialist, will do this for you, permanently and easily. Thousands who have gone to him thoroughly discouraged have left his case absolutely and permanently cured.

Among those thus made happy is Mr. Albert Sheldrake, a young organ-maker of Woodstock, Ont. He had suffered for years from Chronic Constipation and all the pills to which it gives rise. In his

gratitude at being cured he sent Dr. Sproule a testimonial to be published. You can get full particulars of it in "Weighty Words," a booklet which will be sent you free. On April 26 Mr. Sheldrake wrote again:

"My Dear Dr. Sproule: I read my testimonial, and it is truly worded, word for word, as I sent it to you. I hope it will do good. And as I then said, I will write to any one about it. I will be glad to do it for the sake of what you did for me, and the kind and never-failing interest you took in my case from beginning to end. Very kindly, your patient."

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Another, among many, is the case of MRS. AUSTIN COLBOK, of Brampton, Ont., who had suffered from Catarrh of both the Stomach and Liver for years. She, too, had tried to get cured, but without relief. She could produce a movement of the bowels only by a strong cathartic or an enema. The bowels were so inflamed that the latter brought away bleeding pieces of mucous membrane.

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gratitude at being cured he sent Dr. Sproule a testimonial to be published. You can get full particulars of it in "Weighty Words," a booklet which will be sent you free. On April 26 Mr. Sheldrake wrote again:

"My Dear Dr. Sproule: I read my testimonial, and it is truly worded, word for word, as I sent it to you. I hope it will do good. And as I then said, I will write to any one about it. I will be glad to do it for the sake of what you did for me, and the kind and never-failing interest you took in my case from beginning to end. Very kindly, your patient."

"ALBERT SHELDRAKE."

Another, among many, is the case of MRS. AUSTIN COLBOK, of Brampton, Ont., who had suffered from Catarrh of both the Stomach and Liver for years. She, too, had tried to get cured, but without relief. She could produce a movement of the bowels only by a strong cathartic or an enema. The bowels were so inflamed that the latter brought away bleeding pieces of mucous membrane.

Under Dr. Sproule's care both stomach and liver, and consequently bowels, were soon put in order. The quick yet gentle effect of his treatment was a revelation. She writes: "Your remedies were just what I needed for my bowels. They move nicely now. I am very much pleased, and shall tell other people here about your treatment."

Is your case like either of these? Why do you keep on ailing when a cure is so easy? Under Dr. Sproule's treatment the Constipation will go for good. The dull, sluggish feelings, the unwillingness to work, the dizziness, the heavy brain, the despondency, will all depart. Write to him. His advice is free. Address Dr. Sproule, B. A., (formerly surgeon British Royal Navy Service), English Catarrh Specialist, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13 Doane street, Boston.

THEY CAN WEAR SILK. Messrs. A. L. Belyea and Alex. Henderson Appointed Queen's Counsel.

In accordance with the powers vested in them by the provisions of an act passed at the last session of the legislature, the provincial government have appointed two additional Queen's Counsel for the province. The act provides that two may be appointed on or before the 30th of June.

By this latest act of the government's both a Mainland and an Island barrister attain to the dignity of