

would have been more fair and just to have divided the south riding and have left the west riding untouched.

Mr. SHAW. Suppose it were done.

Mr. BLAKE. I will not suppose so, because it is not going to be; but nothing the hon. gentleman has said has furnished any argument for diminishing the population of the north riding to 17,300 as against 25,000. We know the reasons, Sir. The reason is, that because an equalization of the population would have given the north riding to the Reformers, or made the result doubtful, the hope to avoid that result, and a Bill professedly based on equalization, having its justification in the argument that equalization was necessary, contains on the face of it this glaring inequality: that these two townships are taken from the north riding and put to the west riding, making a difference of about 7,000 in population for the sole and only purpose of accomplishing this nefarious result, and stifling the voice of the electorate, and providing that a county, which has a majority of Reformers and a minority of Conservatives, shall give its voice in Parliament for two Conservatives and one Reformer. If the north riding of Bruce increases in population in future years make your readjustment then. Deal with the necessities of the case as they arise. The hon. gentleman talks about the villages and the number of townships, but we know the conditions of the north riding of Bruce and the Indian Peninsula as compared with other parts of the county. We all know that the expectations of the hon. gentleman are not likely to be so extensively realized as he seems to imagine. I say the profession is a hollow one, an unjustifiable one.

Mr. SHAW. The hon. gentleman contradicts himself. He has stated before, that even with the township of Saugeen and the village of Port Elgin, and if the south riding were then divided into east and west, there would still be a deficiency of 163 in the Reform vote, and that simply increases it, so that if divided into east and west the Reformers will still be behind in the north, and the north riding would have a majority of 163 Conservative votes over the Reform votes. So it cannot be placed in the north riding, except for the purpose of increasing the majority. That can be the only argument he can use. The majority is there without the addition of that township. It is, therefore, done for the purpose of giving it proportion in territory as well as in population. He does not deny that the territory is large; that it is unsettled; that these townships will be filled up in the future and that shortly. The hon. leader of the Government has not said that he intended altogether to divide the constituencies according to population, but both by population and territory, and that principle has been kept in view in the north riding as well as in the east. In that respect I deny that there is anything wrong in this Bill, and the hon. gentleman must be aware of it. According to the last returns there were, without Bruce, 163 Conservative majority already. It was unnecessary to divide it the way proposed by this Bill in order to make the north riding Conservative. It would have been a Conservative riding with the township of Bruce annexed to the south riding. In any view of the situation, the hon. gentleman will not deny that the township should have gone to the north riding.

Mr. BLAKE. The hon. gentleman says that the leader of the Government considered territory as well as population. This is the first time we have heard that. We did not hear that from the hon. Minister before, but let me give him an instance of the manner in which territory is considered in this Bill. The county of Frontenac for electoral purposes contains 320 square miles and a population of 14,983, and a very large portion of the municipal territory of the county of Frontenac has been cut off and added to Addington. For electoral purposes the county of Addington contains 2,057 square miles and a population of 23,470.

Mr. BLAKE.

If you wanted to consider territory as well as population, of course, provision ought to be made for subtracting from Addington in territory and population, municipally belonging to Frontenac. But the grossest inequality of territory is preserved in this scheme. Over 2,000 miles is taken from the small and given to the large by the old Bill and unaltered by this. As the hon. gentleman says, look at the returns of 1878, and you will see that there is a majority of Conservatives in North Bruce even with the subtraction of the township of Saugeen and the village of Port Elgin. It is true that is the case by the returns of 1878. As I said before, the voice of the county of Bruce spoke with only something like 100 of a majority on that occasion; but I said it spoke under great difficulties, and the hon. gentleman knows that that is not the present voice of North Bruce. He knows that it would be dangerous to the Conservative cause in the north riding to leave Saugeen and Port Elgin in, and it is because it would be dangerous to leave them there that they are taken from the north riding and put in the other. That is the case I say, and I believe that nine men out of every ten in this country will believe it to be the case.

Mr. KIRKPATRICK. I was under the impression that the hon. gentleman found fault with the Bill, because it made too many changes, but now we find he wants more changes made. He has alluded to one illustration with which I am somewhat familiar. Does not the hon. gentleman know that the division of the counties of Addington, Frontenac and Lennox, was made some years ago, at the suggestion and with the approval of the hon. gentleman who sits beside him (Sir Richard J. Cartwright). I am certain that hon. gentleman was consulted as to the division of those counties, and why does he find fault now? I have no doubt that a great many more changes might be made, but the Government knew that every additional change would be found fault with by hon. gentlemen opposite, and when we listened to the agonizing shrieks which they sent up, when the Bill was brought down, that the Government had legislated themselves into power for another ten years—

Mr. BLAKE. I did not say so.

Mr. KIRKPATRICK. The *Globe* newspaper said so.

Mr. CAMERON (Huron). You cannot do it.

Mr. KIRKPATRICK. They say so now; they did not say so last week. The *Globe* said that Sir John A. Macdonald had legislated himself into power for another ten years. These gentlemen say that the people of Ontario are discontented, dissatisfied, impoverished by the policy of the Government; discontented with the Canadian Pacific Railway policy of the Government, dissatisfied with all the scandals connected with them—anxious to turn them out—and yet this wave of discontent has not swept over the country equally. We are told that the rain falls from Heaven upon the just and the unjust alike; but it appears that this wave of discontent has not swept over the country in the same equal manner, but that it has jumped from township to township, and only lighted on a few townships, which the hon. gentleman, with that prescience which distinguished him, finds grouped together in this Bill. I would ask any hon. gentleman in this House, does he think it possible that if the majority of the people of Ontario are dissatisfied with the present Government and their policy, can they be hived together? Can the minority hive the majority? No, Sir, it is impossible. Hon. gentlemen opposite know, and the terror which they display at this Bill shows, that they feel it in the supreme hour of their political existence; just as the last hour before dissolution, when they and we alike are going to meet our judge, the people, that they have to give an account of the policy they have pursued in this House, they have to show whether their opposition to this Government and its policy has been just