

Another matter that bothers me is that a fight may be made by a number of persons in various directions. That is to say, when the party starts out one of its members may be in possession of a gun; then when a death ensues, the members of the party separate and go in all directions, and later another member of the party is found with the gun in his possession. It may be that once again the members of the party separate, this time completely, and that after they have done so the fellow who then has the gun pulls it out and shoots somebody. Then the man who was once in possession of the gun, but who was not even present at the scene of the crime, would be guilty of murder. There will certainly be some real arguments over this.

The motion for concurrence was agreed to

REPRESENTATION BILL FIRST READING

A message was received from the House of Commons with Bill 18, an Act to readjust the Representation in the House of Commons.

The bill was read the first time.

SECOND READING

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON moved the second reading of the bill.

Hon. JOHN T. HAIG: Honourable senators, before this bill is given second reading I wish to say that it has long been the practice in this house not to go into the details of a redistribution bill. For that reason I shall make no comment, except that His Honour the Speaker used the wrong term, I think, when he called this "an Act to readjust." He might well have called it "an Act to gerrymander." The term "gerrymander" is derived from Gerry, the name of an American politician who introduced a bill involving a practice that is still alive in this country. Ever since that time this practice has been called gerrymandering.

Hon. THOMAS VIEN: I should like to point out that the word was frequently heard in parliamentary circles in this country between 1878 and 1896. I recall that when I was a young member in another place—unfortunately it was years ago—I delighted in reading the speeches delivered in the two houses of parliament with respect to gerrymandering. Some speakers supported the practice while others strongly objected to it. If honourable senators have some spare time during the recess they might enjoy reading the debates of the House of Commons following the election of 1896. I would particularly refer them to the speeches of Sir Charles Tupper, leader of

the opposition, who had developed the theory that the Liberals had won a great number of seats by a minority of the votes cast, and that certain Liberal members would not have been elected had the boundaries of their representative constituencies not been altered.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, then Prime Minister, pointed out to Sir Charles that gerrymandering had been strongly opposed by the Liberals in previous sessions of parliament, and that it was a Conservative practice. Sir Wilfrid further stated that Sir Charles Tupper, as leader of the opposition, had no right to complain of gerrymandering having taken place, because the redistribution had been made by his own friends.

In 1917 also there were bitter complaints of gerrymandering under the War-time Elections Act. At that time the Right Honourable Arthur Meighen, then Secretary of State, was charged with having introduced that measure in order to rearrange the boundaries of certain constituencies in such a way as to disfranchise certain Canadian citizens and give the right to vote to certain other people, such as the wives, mothers, daughters and sisters of Poles, Serbs and others in the United States. During that period Canada opened some eighty-three voting polls in the United States, a *fait unique* in the electoral history of Canada. I hope it will remain unique because giving people in a foreign country the right to elect members to the Canadian parliament is an extraordinary principle to be introduced in our electoral legislation.

Charges of gerrymandering were also made in 1933 or 1934 when a bill similar to the one now before us was introduced in the other place. At that time the boundaries of certain counties were changed, and all the "wicked" Liberals who were in the immediate vicinity were thrown into those counties to make them absolutely Liberal and to relieve the neighbouring counties of the Liberal vote. That also was called gerrymandering.

Hon. Mr. HORNER: Honourable senators,—

Hon. Mr. VIEN: I shall be finished in a few minutes. I know that my honourable friend will reply appropriately and with his customary vim and ingenuity. I had no intention of speaking on this measure, because, as the honourable leader of the opposition (Hon. Mr. Haig) has said, it is not usual for this house to debate at any length a bill to delimit the constituencies of honourable members of another place. But I want to point out that the first use in Canada of the word "gerrymandering" was principally by Liberals when complaining of acts of their political