

1902, owing to the influx of population into a portion of New Ontario, four additional seats were given there. But the statement is absolutely true, that speaking generally, so far as the Province is concerned, no changes whatever were made in the constituencies since 1885 except as to Toronto and New Ontario. This further fact is noticeable that redistribution measures were brought down in Parliament subsequent to a decennial census.

Then as to whether redistribution under Liberal rule is fair, it is a noteworthy fact that Liberal majorities varied in those 23 years from 30 down to 3, and that the very same constituencies delimited in 1885 gave a Conservative majority in 1905 of over 40. It is therefore quite clear that there was no excuse whatever for the Gerrymander Act introduced this year, and, of course, it did not follow a decennial census.

ENGLISH PRECEDENT.

It is rather a strange coincidence but in the year 1885 there was a general redistribution of constituencies in Great Britain, which redistribution was conducted upon fair lines and principles. The Honourable Mr. Gladstone and Lord Salisbury and other leaders of both parties met and agreed upon every principle in the bill; then the bill exactly as agreed upon was brought in as a Government measure; there was no dispute and no discussion in Parliament as to its terms. Then the delimiting or fixing the boundaries of the constituencies in accordance with the principles of this bill was left to an Independent Commission, composed of Judges, Royal Engineers, etc.. Thus in no sense whatever did party politics enter into the carrying out of this Redistribution Bill, nor did the Party in Power seek to obtain any unfair advantage. It is clear, therefore, that Mr. Whitney did not attempt to follow British precedent, which he is so fond of referring to.

CONSERVATIVE PRECEDENT.

What was the professed policy of Conservatives in the Ontario House while in Opposition as to this important question of redistribution? In 1874, the then Leader of the Conservative party opposed any increase in the number of representatives, which at that time was raised from 82 to 86.

In 1902, Dr. Jamieson, the Conservative member for South Grey, introduced a bill into the Legislature which the present Premier supported, and which may therefore be considered