

counties. In Yarmouth, the townships of Yarmouth and Argyle embrace the whole county, and also are separated, not only as regards the election of representatives, but in reference to the arrangement of local affairs; each has its own session house, and is completely distinct in the management of township concerns. Similar remarks apply to Shelburne and Barrington. In Queens county also, the districts comprise the whole county, and the existing division was only recently made.

The bill then does not aim at reducing the representation of those counties which have now more representatives than they are numerically entitled to, except by the removal of a member from Hants. That county is so very unequally situated, that to take one from it cannot be considered an extravagant exercise of power. It would then have four members in common with Kings, Colechester, and Pictou, and Halifax five;—Hants thus, would have with its 14,000 population, as many as Pictou with 25,000, and double the number of Cape Breton with its 17,000, and one more than Lunenburg, of which the population is more numerous. It would thus be on the same footing with the most privileged, except Halifax, which is the metropolitan county, and has a population

of nearly 40,000. One other feature in the bill was requisite, to meet a special inequality. Inverness, with a population of about 17,000, is represented by two members. I should suppose there ought to be no objection to giving an additional member to that county, and so raising it to the electoral rank of Lunenburg,—and to no higher position than is occupied by Annapolis, with its 14,000, and Yarmouth with its 13,000 inhabitants. I may be asked why is this not carried out? Why is not other increase of representation made on the same principle? I answer, that would be to enlarge the whole number of this house too much. A neighboring county to Inverness, Cape Breton, might well demand the same measure of consideration, but that county has recently obtained in another form, an increase of representation; it is not long since Victoria was separated from it. It had then two members, and Victoria had two given; so that the 27,000 inhabitants there, have four representatives. That is deemed sufficient reason for not doing for Cape Breton what might seem equal justice, as compared with Inverness.

[The Reporter has not furnished the manuscript of the remainder of the Attorney General's speech.]