

NORTH AND SOUTH LANARKS.

At the last moment the bill was amended so as to take Sherbrooke North from North Lanark and put it in South Lanark and to take Beckwith from South Lanark and put it in North Lanark. South Lanark is represented by Col. Mathieson, the Provincial Treasurer, who had a majority of nearly a thousand. North Lanark is represented by Dr. Preston, the Liberal whip, and is a fighting riding. The object of the change was to give an advantage to Mr. Preston of about 175 votes.

LIBERAL POSITION.

The Liberals contended

1. That, if possible, the number of members in the Province of Ontario should not be increased.
2. There was no justification for a redistribution until after the next decennial census except that New Ontario should have additional representation owing to its rapid growth.
3. That, as between the rural municipalities and the cities, a distinct basis of representation as to population should be observed, particularly so with reference to Toronto where the members of the Cabinet reside, where the Parliament Buildings are situated and where legislation is so easily influenced, directly, or indirectly, by the people of Toronto.
4. When the first amendment of the Liberals was voted down, namely, that there should be no present redistribution bill except that New Ontario should be given additional representation, the Liberals then moved against Toronto getting eight, offering to give Toronto six representatives, but insisting upon six separate constituencies and suggesting that the six wards which are now existing for municipal purposes whatever their political complexion, should be taken. This the Conservatives voted down. This, however, was eminently fair to Toronto under the 1901 census, as will be seen from the following figures. Under the 1901 census, Toronto had 208,000 of a population; with six representatives the unit would be about 34,000. London now has one member, the unit being 33,000. Ottawa has two members, the unit being 33,000, so that as between the cities this number would have been absolutely fair. Again, Montreal in the Local, with a population of 350,000, has but five members, that is one member to every 70,000, although the unit in the Province of Quebec of representatives is 22,000 as against 21,140 in Ontario.