

It is passing strange that, if the Government thought that the La Rose people were entitled to any reward for the services they had rendered, they did not settle with them upwards of a year ago when the litigation with O'Brien was terminated, and that they should leave the whole matter off until the last hours of the Session and until the eve of a general election. If a Liberal Government had put through in the dying hours of a session such a shady transaction as giving \$130,000 to friends of the Ministers on such a flimsy pretext as they were able to put up, and if a Liberal Government had given the \$2,500,000 guarantee, after having deceived the House as to the necessity of giving it, what a howl would be raised by Conservatives all over the province, shouts of graft would be heard on all hands and doubtless statements would be made that a large campaign fund had been secured out of this \$130,000 graft and out of this \$2,500,000 guarantee.

THE GERRYMANDER

The history of the delimitation of constituencies in Ontario is as follows: Prior to Confederation, Quebec and Ontario had each sixty-five members in the House. By the British North America Act, so far as Dominion representation is concerned, Quebec was made the unit and given 65 representatives, while Ontario on the same basis was then entitled to 82. The limits of the 82 constituencies were fixed in the schedule to the British North America Act, passed by the Imperial Parliament and prepared by the Fathers of Confederation. These 82 constituencies were of course for Dominion purposes, but the same 82 constituencies were accepted for the Legislature of Ontario, which at first consisted of 82 members. This was of course in 1867. Then the question arises when and what were the changes since made? After the decennial census of 1871, viz. in 1874, owing to the growth of population, etc., there was a general redistribution throughout the Province of Ontario. Again, after the decennial census of 1881, viz. in 1885, there was a general redistribution. It is a very remarkable fact that from 1885 until the present session of Parliament there was no general redistribution of the constituencies of this Province. It is true that in 1894, owing to the growth of the cities, they were dealt with, Ottawa being given 2 seats, Toronto 4, Hamilton 2, Kingston 1 and London 1. Again in