

Mr. CAMERON (Huron). What about the village of Exeter, which, of course, belongs to South Huron, and makes the population 23,716?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I propose to put the village of Exeter into the north riding of Middlesex.

Mr. BLAKE. That was not reserved.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I know.

Sir RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT. It may be as well to supply some facts in regard to these changes which the hon. Minister has omitted, no doubt, inadvertently. This same division seems to have cost him a great deal of mental labor. When the Bill was first introduced, we found the division proposed was not the division now before us; the township of Osborne was attached to South Huron, and several other differences were apparent. Then, at the second reading we had the new divisions, as shown by the Bill, and now at this, the third stage, a total alteration is proposed. The constituency that I represent is lost, so far as its name goes, to the roll of Canadian constituencies, and the other constituency is altered in a manner in which the House will probably better understand from some of the facts from our electoral returns. I find in the division of West Huron, as at present proposed, by the voting at the last General Election, the hon. gentleman opposite would have had a majority of 108 or thereabouts, and in East Huron a majority of about 174, and in South Huron, as at now proposed, the Reform party had a majority of close upon 800. Now, doubtless none of those facts were known to the hon. gentleman or his advisers. This is a pure result of the desire of the hon. gentleman exemplified in so many other places to secure as nearly as possible an equality. But he has succeeded in producing an equality in a curious fashion. He has taken away about 1,000 souls from the county of Huron, as municipally constituted—I think the population of Stephen Village, of Exeter and the township of Osborne amounts to about 10,000. Having taken these people away, he made the division before us. The result has the peculiarity of making the Reform majority not far short of 1,000 in the south riding, about 100 in the west and about seventy-five in the east. Well, it is tolerably clear what the object of the hon. gentleman's advisers was, to whom he, in his ignorance and innocence, has yielded. I am sorry to see Centre Huron thus blotted out of the map. As the fidelity of this riding has been so great to the Reform cause, and particularly in electing myself at a time when this cause was in a very despairing condition, I have no objection to propose, if the hon. gentleman will leave that constituency alone, not to stand for it again. In this riding, for many years, the Reform party have had a majority of 500 or 600; and its local electorate in the local elections of 1879, elected the three Reform candidates by a total majority of 630. There cannot be the smallest possible doubt as to the object of these changes; they are exactly a repetition of the policy attempted to be carried into effect in the county of Bruce. It is a riding which for a great many years had given a decided, though not by any means so large, a Reform majority. But they so manipulated it that there should be nearly 1,000 Reform votes placed in one constituency, so that the hon. gentleman may try to obtain a more moderate majority for his friends in the other. Here we have an exact duplication for the same proceeding, something like 800 Reform voters placed together, and the ridings so divided that the hon. gentleman thinks his friends may secure a considerable majority on the other side. All those plans and purposes are likely now, as in the past, to be frustrated. The hon. gentleman, in former times, found it necessary to create a party constituency so far as the shape was concerned in Centre Huron; but he found that his decision, although no doubt the object was scarcely concealed at the time, failed to give him control of the county of Huron. So he now attempts to reproduce in a different

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fashion, and by entirely destroying one of the constituencies, the same feat and to obtain the same result. I do not know that is to be altogether regretted. It is desirable that there should be gross and crying cases of inequalities which every man can understand without the slightest difficulty. I will venture to say that in all the Western Peninsula their will not be a single voter on either side of politics who will not thoroughly and fully understand precisely why the Hurons were gerrymandered in this fashion. I am quite aware that there is no great use in remonstrating with the hon. gentleman. I, like my hon. friend, beside me, have considerable faith that when these propositions are fully explained and fairly submitted to the people of Ontario, the hon. gentleman will find that even his own honest supporters will vote against the disgraceful trick he attempts to practice here, and to them I must leave it, not having much hope in an appeal to the justice or generosity, or sense of fair play, of the hon. gentleman and his supporters.

Mr. CAMERON (Huron). I wish to say a word or two on this extraordinary change which the hon. gentleman has seen fit to make at the eleventh hour. In 1872, the hon. gentleman tried to do precisely the same thing in South Huron. He undertook to elect the Liberal member out by gerrymandering to such an extent that he was left in a minority of 187. The Government at that time detached the same township they are to-day annexing; and their object was the same as it is now, to improve their political prospects. This is the third change the hon. gentleman has made. Is it to be the last? Is the hon. gentleman satisfied that by this third change he has accomplished his purpose?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Do you want it altered?

Mr. CAMERON. When the hon. gentleman introduced this Bill first the only change he proposed was to detach from South Huron the townships of Osborne and Stephen, and annex to it the town of Goderich. That left me in a minority of 107 according to the last returns. The hon. gentleman thought he had accomplished his purpose, but on looking over the figures he found that there was an absolute certainty that whoever the Liberal candidate for South Huron might be, he would occupy a seat in Parliament. He set his wits to work and tried his game again. Calling on a council of the Conservative party in the House, he made another attempt, he detached a township that gave me a majority, and annexed another municipality that gave a majority against the Liberal candidate. The hon. gentleman thought he had accomplished everything then, but found he was mistaken. He saw the Conservative organ from the Hurons, which declared that if the Government expected to accomplish what they had in view, by the gerrymandering they had perpetrated in the Hurons, they were mistaken, because instead of weakening the Liberal member for South Huron by attaching Goderich to it, they strengthened his hands. It became therefore necessary to make another shuffle of the cards, and the hon. gentleman was equal to the occasion. On Friday last, a delegation from the Conservatives of the Hurons waited on the Government, and intimated to it that, with the present formation of the Hurons, the whole three ridings were uncertain, and that in two of them the Conservative prospects were so slight as to be hopeless. What did the hon. gentleman then do? He attached to South Huron every single township he could that gave a Reform majority. Thus he hived all the Grits of the three Hurons in the south riding where their majority, by this gerrymandering, ought, according to the last returns, to be 684. By this means, he thinks he has made East and West Huron perfectly safe. According to the last vote, South Huron would now give a Conservative majority of 107, and East Huron, a Conservative majority of 108. I ask you if