

TORONTO CONSTITUENCIES.

Lack of principle and cowardliness were never more exhibited than in the manner in which Toronto is to be represented. In the old Conservative City of Toronto Mr. Whitney decided to give Toronto eight representatives, but dare not make eight constituencies, fearing that the Liberals might capture several of them. In addition to this, the old narrow Family Compact principle displays itself, and the Legislative Club is wielded against any independence in the Conservative party and also against labor and other candidates. The Conservative newspapers at first announced that there would be two representatives for each of the present four ridings in Toronto, but on studying this out, Mr. Whitney evidently came to the conclusion that the independent Conservatives who have nominated candidates might succeed in electing some, also that the Liberal party, having placed one candidate in nomination in each of the four ridings, might probably elect their candidate; therefore to defeat all these and to defeat the Liberals, the bill provides that there shall be eight representatives, two members representing each riding, each voter shall have two votes and each riding shall have two representatives. In any riding, nominations may be made for Class A and Class B within that riding, but each candidate must say which class he is in. It may well happen therefore under this system that while in Class A two candidates might receive respectively 10,000 and 9,900 votes, in Class B the highest candidate might not have 8,000 votes and yet might be elected, so that you would have in the one constituency the highest and the third highest elected as members while the second highest would be declared not elected.

The Liberals protested against this iniquitous measure. The House was divided about a dozen times in all during the progress of the bill, but the Liberals were voted down by the overwhelming Conservative majority. One result is, that a farmer, merchant, mechanic or manufacturer voting in any town or township in the Province, or city other than Toronto, will have but one vote and will have but one representative in Parliament, whereas a voter in Toronto will have two votes and two representatives. The principle so long fought for of, "one man, one vote, one constituency, one representative," is thrown to the winds in order to keep the Tory City of Toronto safe for the Tories.