

electoral, municipal, judicial, and registration purposes, and I think they should also form part of the county of Terrebonne for the representation of the House of Commons.

Mr. BLAKE. I am sure we must all regret the absence of the hon. member for Terrebonne (Mr. Masson) on this interesting occasion when everybody seems disposed to add to his county. It encourages me to hope that in the future I may have the support of the hon. gentleman who last spoke in reference to the general principles that should influence us in dealing with parliamentary representation. My hon. friend has given as a reason for adding these townships, the expediency of making the electoral limits coterminous with the municipal limits. I do not remember to have received the support of my hon. friend to that principle, which I embodied in a motion an evening or two ago, but on the renewal of that motion in the future I may hope to receive his support on the general principle.

Mr. DUGAS. I was influenced by the statement made by the hon. member for Argenteuil (Mr. Abbott), that if any steps were taken in the Local Legislature to annex these two townships to Terrebonne for all purposes, it was but right that they should form part of that county for electoral purposes.

Mr. ABBOTT. As I have been very careful in making this motion to have the entire assent of those who represent Terrebonne, I cannot make any addition to it with regard to the suggestion that the addition of these townships should be made conditional on their being made portions of the municipal county. I have in my hand telegrams from Mr. Chapleau, stating that he has given notice of a Bill to carry this out. I do not know why I should apply this principle to this clause, since those portions of the Bill referring to Ontario do not depend on that principle.

Mr. MILLS. With regard to the Ontario portion of the Bill the hon. First Minister declared that he was adhering to the principle of representation by population. If the hon. member for Argenteuil followed the provisions of the Ontario section of this Bill as interpreted by the First Minister, he would abandon his proposition altogether, because he proposes to take from a county with a population of 16,000, and add to one with a population of nearly 22,000. I am afraid the hon. gentleman will hardly be able to defend the amendment by appealing to the Ontario portion of this Bill.

Mr. ABBOTT. I do not propose to defend it by reference to the Ontario portion of the measure; I merely propose not to make the addition conditional on its being made municipally, by referring to Ontario in that respect. As to the question of representation by population, I do not know that I can go quite so far as to say that this principle is of so sacred a character that nothing else should affect it. Now, in this particular case the question is not a question of political representation at all; it is a question of the convenience of these people who are proposed to be added to their neighbors and friends and fellow-citizens, and people speaking the same language, having the same faith and being of the same race, instead of being added to any new county where they are in a minority, where their ideas are practically of no value, and where the votes will probably be given on principles different from those that regulate the remaining portions of Canada. It is upon those grounds that I think, if the principle of representation by population were a solemn principle, I might claim to have some exemption from its effect. But I can scarcely admit it is of so solemn a character that no exception is to be allowed, and I think that the reasons I have stated for making an exception in this case are sufficiently strong to induce the House to make it.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. BLAKE. I wish to make a suggestion which I think of some practical consequence before we proceed to the 5th

clause. It seems to me it would be much more logical to put the township of Ashbury, which is in Ontario, in the Ontario section of the Bill, or in the section relative to the county of Addington, and to put the Magdalen Islands, Gaspé and the other Quebec districts in the section relative to the Province of Quebec. There is no general provision, but there is a specific provision with reference to certain electoral districts, and these localities should be incorporated with the other provisions respecting related or adjacent electoral districts.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. It might be convenient to consider that suggestion.

Mr. FORTIN. I wish to propose a new clause to the Bill relating to voting in the winter season on the Magdalen Islands and the Island of Anticosti, when communication between the mainland and those islands is impossible. Hon. members will remember that I introduced a Bill at the beginning of the Session to carry that into effect, but my hon. friend said I had better introduce it as an amendment to this Bill. The clause is as follows:—

Whenever it appears to the satisfaction of the Governor in Council, at the time when an election of a member to represent either of the electoral districts of Gaspé or Saguenay in the House of Commons of Canada, is about to be held, that communication by water between the Island of Anticosti or the Magdalen Islands (as the case may be) and the mainland, may probably be interrupted during such election by the severity of the season, he may direct that all necessary instructions and intelligence relating to such election may be transmitted by telegraph to and by the proper deputy returning officer or officers, by and to the returning officer, so that he may be informed of the number of votes given for each candidate, and of other matters relating to the election, and be enabled to return the candidate having the majority, or to make such other return as the case may require; and the Governor in Council may make such order as to the details of the proceedings at such election, depending on such telegraphic communication, as to him may seem proper for best attaining the purposes of this Act.

We do not propose to vote by telegraph, but to carry on the proceedings of the election by telegraph. Instead of sending the proclamations, writs and appointments by letter, they will be sent by telegraph, and the reports will be made by returning officers by telegraph. The most important communications are now made by telegraph and are as sure as if made by letter, because they are repeated, and when a telegram is repeated we have the strongest assurance that it has been sent correctly. The ballot boxes will be made at the Magdalen Islands, bulletins printed there, and the elections carried on in winter as in summer, the only difference being that instead of sending the information by letter it will be sent by telegraph. The telegraph system in those islands is owned by and under the control of the Government. Some people will say that might give rise to fraud, but the candidates will also be able to telegraph for information, so that there cannot be any fraud.

Mr. BLAKE. It appears to me this clause stands on the Orders of the Day, in a Bill which is ordered to be read a second time. Is it in order to propose the clause on this occasion?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. There cannot be any exception to this motion, because it is not a Bill but a resolution.

Mr. BLAKE. I find a Bill on the Orders of the Day proposing to carry out the object proposed in this clause. The House has ordered that the Bill be read a second time, and it now stands on the Orders of the Day. The point of order is whether we can anticipate the decision of the House on that question.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. There is a Bill on the Orders of the Day, but this is not a Bill. This is a resolution, and, therefore, it does not prevent the Bill on the Orders of the Day being taken up as ordered.

Mr. CAMERON (Victoria). I am not aware that if a private member thinks fit to introduce a Bill and put it on