

and dishonorable. I am willing to give hon. gentlemen opposite all the legitimate political advantage to which they are entitled in arranging for four new constituencies, but this running up and down the whole Province, and striking at men whose hands are tied is unfair, unmanly and unworthy of any political party. If, as we have just heard, and for the first time, territory is to be regarded as well as population, I can suggest some interesting problems for hon. gentlemen opposite. For example, if territory is an element in the redistribution, why should the township of Oakland be taken from my riding which comprises about fifteen miles, and added to another which is fifty miles long? If territory is to be taken into account, what shall we say in reference to taking Ancaster out of the county of Wentworth right against the city limits of Hamilton, and taking Blenheim, almost adjoining the corporation limits of Woodstock—points about fifty miles apart—and throwing them into one riding about five or six miles wide? Hon. gentlemen had better, for the sake of their own credit, give up the pretence of paying regard to territory because there are too many instances which show that that consideration had no weight with them. So far as we can judge, if they refuse the motion before the Committee they will show that they have paid no regard to equalization, no regard to territorial arrangement, and that their only desire has been to strengthen their own men in the various constituencies, to use their legislative power to stab their political opponents when their hands are tied. I am sure you, Mr. Chairman (Mr. Colby) as a fair-minded man, will agree with me, as others on that side will, that hon. gentlemen cannot pretend to indicate the principle of equalizing the population unless they accept the amendment. If they refuse, they will simply put in the hands of their opponents another and a stronger weapon which will give additional strength to men whose hands they seek to bind by an Act of this Legislature.

Mr. SPROULE. It is quite evident that if, as the hon. gentleman says, his hands and those of his friends have been tied by this measure, their tongues have not been tied, for they have used them to considerable advantage during this debate. One would imagine to hear them talk that they belonged to a party that could not be accused of any such transaction, and I would like to ask them what was done in the case of the redistribution of seats in the Province of Ontario. The hon. member for Huron East contradicted me when I said that the Government of Ontario had formed provisional counties for the purpose of increasing their political power, though the people did not want them formed. The truth of my statement is proved by the fact that the people of the county of Dufferin refused to pass a vote making it a provisional county. They changed no less than five constituencies for the purpose of redistributing the seats, and, in order to form this county of Dufferin, they rearranged three other counties, and they took one township entirely across the line and put it with North Grey, thinking to get a little increased political strength in that constituency. The people of Dufferin refused to erect themselves into a county until they were served with a mandate, and I would like to know what stronger evidence could be given that political exigencies compelled the Ontario Government to make the rearrangement. If the Government wish to satisfy the people, there is only one way in which they can do it, that is to give their side the political majority in the constituencies. Then they will acknowledge it is right and not till then. I was rather amused at the argument of the hon. member for West Durham. The other day he complained that, in order to give four additional members to the Province of Ontario, the Government found it necessary to change no less than forty constituencies; to-day he grumbles because they have not changed more constituencies. The whole question has been, what is the political complexion of this constituency?

If it only gave a majority to the Opposition it was all right but if it gave a majority to the Government it was all wrong. There is the strongest evidence for their arguments that they are guided by no rule except what would increase their political strength. Their whole objection is to find fault. A great man once said that to criticise successfully, you must find fault. I think hon. gentlemen opposite have adopted that rule. The question is not whether anything is right or wrong, but whether it adds to their political strength. I think no one can look fairly over the Bill without seeing that it is fairly based on the principle of representation by population. To show the growth of population, I may refer to my own county. In 1871, when the Census was taken, it was found that the three ridings of Grey had about an equal population; but we find to-day that East Grey has over 29,000, while South Grey has 21,000, showing that the former has been settled very rapidly. My own feeling is that the Government have rearranged the constituencies in that county fairly according to the principle of representation by population; and both the Bruces and Simcoes are arranged much more fairly than they were before. I am satisfied that within a few years the population of North Bruce will be equal to that of any of the other ridings. But I think it would be unfair to attempt to satisfy the Opposition in the House, because nothing can satisfy them. Their conduct is only a pretext to waste the time of this House from day to day and from week to week; they are only trying to advance argument which they may use again in the country. I think the Government would be derelict in their duty if they attempted to meet them even half way; but they have only to go on in their course and the country will sustain them.

Amendment negatived.

On section 43,

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I propose that the township of Romney be added to Kent from the south riding of Essex.

Mr. MILLS. I think it proper that Romney should be retained in the county of Kent. I do not propose to make any motion while the Bill is in Committee, but I think the county of Kent is wholly inadequately represented and most unfairly divided, and I shall, at a later stage, propose an amendment to this provision of the Bill. The county of Kent, with a population of 54,000, has not been given more than two representatives, while the county of Lambton is represented almost by three. I think the provision is most unfair.

On section 52,

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I have been looking at the division of the county of Huron for local purposes, and I see that, instead of being divided into North, South and Centre Huron, it is divided into East, South and West Huron. I propose to introduce very much the same division, so that the south shall be called the west, the centre shall be called the south, and the north shall be called the east riding. I propose that the west riding shall consist of the townships of Wawanosh East, Wawanosh West, Ashfield, Colborne and Goderich, and the towns of Goderich and Clinton. I propose that the east riding shall consist of the townships of Howick, Morris, Turnberry, and Grey, the town of Wingham, and the villages of Brussels, Blythe and Wroxeter. And I propose that the south riding shall consist of the townships of McKillop, Tuckersmith, Stanley, Hullett and Hay, the town of Seaforth, and the village of Bayfield. In looking at the map it will be seen that the hon. gentleman has been holding out a series of pictures in regard to these constituencies. It will be perceived that the changes will make them more compact than at present, and that they will be very nearly equal. East Huron will have a population of 21,720; West Huron, 23,512, and South Huron, 21,991.