

The census of the previous year gave Muskoka and Parry Sound a population of nearly seven thousand souls, and in the re-distribution of seats for the House of Commons, representation was given to Muskoka and Parry Sound as a electoral district for the return of one member. I was prevailed upon, by some leading inhabitants, of both political parties, to stand for the new constituency, and polled a good majority of the votes, but a partisan returning officer would not declare anyone elected; however, when the House met, I was at once awarded the seat. I was elected for the same constituency at the two succeeding general elections, of 1874 and 1878.

In 1882 the above-mentioned districts were partitioned, and portions went to three different constituencies. I stood for the mutilated and unshapely riding of North Ontario, which comprised a length of 125 miles by a breadth of less than five miles at one point, with the detached township of Scugog thrown in as a make weight. I was returned on that occasion, but before another election the Franchise Act of 1885 became law, which not only introduced a new class of votes, but also improperly enfranchised the Indians of Rama and Scugog, who were wards of the Government and voted accordingly. I was therefore defeated, which has so far ended my parliamentary career, and which to some extent was a relief, as I never gave regular attendance at Ottawa, having invariably made all other interests subservient to my navigation duties in Muskoka, as was publicly remarked by the late Mr. McCarthy, M.P., as being a parallel case to his own, when he was accused of neglecting his parliamentary duties in the interest of his clients.

During the winters of 1873-4 a friend induced me to join him in the purchase of a third interest in a square timber exporting concern, with the assurance that it was a perfectly safe and profitable venture and would augment my slender revenue. After the transaction was nearly forgotten by me, I received a rude awakening in the shape of a statement of the square timber accounts, showing,