

One would suppose, if there was any attempt made to equalize the population, that something would be taken from the greatest and if possible added to the least. But this would not suit Mr. Whitney's miserable party purposes. East Middlesex is considered a safe Conservative seat as it is; North Middlesex is now held by a Conservative, but his seat was not considered safe; therefore Strathroy and Metcalfe are taken from West Middlesex and put into North Middlesex, and the Township of Lobo, which is heavily Liberal, is put into West Middlesex, thus making West Middlesex a Liberal hive and making or attempting to make North Middlesex safe Conservative. Duncan Ross, the son of the late Premier, who lives in Strathroy, thus finds himself, not in West Middlesex but in North Middlesex, and Mr. Turnbull, the former Liberal candidate in North Middlesex, is carried over with the Township of Lobo into West Middlesex. The political affiliations and relations of 41 years are broken up; the ridings are made less compact; no one of the three principles mentioned were put into effect, and no sane truth-respecting man can say that the change was made for aught else than for party gain at the expense of every principle of which the Premier made such loud-mouthed professions when introducing the bill.

In every change that was made the Conservatives gained, and in not a single instance is there any advantage to the Liberals. The Independent and even some of the Conservative press frankly admitted that the arguments of the Liberal members were not at all met during the debate. "The World" which is strongly Conservative, on April 7th, 1908, stated emphatically that the arguments made by Messrs. MacKay and Bowman had not been at all met by Conservative speakers.

The Gerrymander Bill has had this effect: It has shown absolute cowardliness in the Premier, who is afraid to go to the country, although he has a majority of 44 at his back, without having recourse to this unfair Gerrymander Bill; and worse than this, it has shaken the confidence of thousands of people in his honesty, because he was so loud-mouthed in his profession that the bill would be a fair one. The debate showed conclusively, as the above facts show, that such a profession is the rankest hypocrisy, and that the present Gerrymander Bill is at once the most subtle and most unfair that was ever perpetrated in the Dominion of Canada.