

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The Government cannot be expected to be well informed with respect to municipal arrangements in Manitoba. None of the municipalities extend into the disputed territory.

Mr. BLAKE. On what information is their territorial area placed in the Bill?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The Government of Manitoba laid out the whole of their territory into municipalities and registration districts. We have had communication with representatives of Manitoba in this House and in the Senate, and also with the Premier of Manitoba when he was here, and the opinion expressed was that it would be well if they could sanction a mode of arrangement. Provencher is a somewhat peculiar shape. That county was originally largely French Canadian and it still contains a large French population, and we thought it well that they should have a county in which the majority would be French Canadians. If they do not emigrate to the North-West in larger numbers in a few years, that district in a few years will become English; but we thought it fair that Provencher should not be swamped by another race. It thus occurs that Provencher is a peculiarly elongated territory, situated along the Red River. The hon. member for West Durham is well aware that when the first counties were laid out we had to make a rough and ready division at the time when the Manitoba Bill was passed.

Mr. BLAKE. I was not at this moment analyzing the particular shape of Provencher or speaking of the nationalities which predominate in that or any other constituency. I want to know the shape of the constituencies.

Mr. MILLS. There must be some Statute of Manitoba fixing the boundaries of those municipalities, and the Government should be able to give the House information on that point. There certainly must be in the Library or in the possession of the Government some indication of the limits of these constituencies, and if so we should have it laid before us.

Mr. BLAKE. If I recollect aright the Consolidated Statutes of Manitoba passed in 1880 with some amendment in 1881, prescribed the number of municipal districts, and I think there are some additional municipal districts established by Order in Council, under the authority of the Statute in connection with the arrangement and extension of the Territory. Of course it is satisfactory to know that the four hon. gentlemen representing Manitoba think that this is a proper division, and if they are attending to their parliamentary duties during the discussion of the question of the boundaries of their Province, perhaps they could supply some of that information with which they supplied the Government, but which the Government seem indisposed to supply to us. I think surely, before the Bill goes through the Committee, we should be informed on the subject, especially as it is a question on which information should not be difficult to procure. What is the territorial size of the various districts, Marquette, Selkirk, Provencher and Lisgar?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I have not the information at hand, and I cannot see that it would do the hon. gentleman or the House any good if we had it. We consider that Manitoba has a right to five members—the whole Province of Manitoba. I do not think that it was ever expected in the world, that in any such measure as this the admeasurement or the territorial extent of the municipality should be furnished. I think the hon. gentleman should be satisfied that the townships are laid out of the usual size adopted in that part of Canada.

Mr. BLAKE. I did not ask the size of each municipality of Manitoba. We had information as to the area of every electoral district in this Dominion excepting those for the Province of Manitoba, and it seems to me material that we

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should have the same information with regard to that Province. I would like to ask how many miles to the eastward of the line laid down on the map these townships come—how close to the disputed territory?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I cannot tell.

Mr. BLAKE. Then the hon. gentleman cannot say whether they go to the disputed territory or not?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I am sure they do not extend into the disputed territory.

Mr. BLAKE. What is embraced in that?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. They do not go farther eastward than the boundary line.

Mr. BLAKE. Will the hon. gentleman say what provision has been made for the representation of that portion of Canada eastward of the line and running down to Algoma?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. There is no provision.

On clause 3,

Mr. ABBOTT. I would suggest that a change be made in the boundaries of the county of Terrebonne. There are three new townships in the rear of Argenteuil recently settled entirely from the county of Terrebonne. They have been settled through the efforts of the Rev. Mr. Labelle, well known for his success in colonization. The population is almost entirely French Canadians, and all its relations, commercial and otherwise, are with the county of Terrebonne. The mails come through that county, and it is impossible to pass from these townships to Argenteuil without going to Terrebonne. It has accordingly been considered expedient by all the public men interested in the matter that these three townships of Rattsbon, Sallaberry and Wolfe should be included in Terrebonne, not only electorally but municipally, and Mr. Chapleau has given notice of a Bill for the change in the Quebec Legislature. The territorial areas of the two counties would be about equalized by the change. They are, therefore, entire strangers to the county of Argenteuil proper, and should be added to the county of Terrebonne. I, therefore, move that these townships be added to that county. I may say there is no political significance attached to this change, as these townships have given a majority to the Conservative member for Argenteuil, and will make no difference, I fancy.

Mr. MILLS. I observe by the Census that Argenteuil has a population of 16,000 and Terrebonne nearly 22,000. How will this change affect the population?

Mr. ABBOTT. It is quite true that Terrebonne has a greater population than Argenteuil, but Argenteuil is rapidly settling up, and will shortly be equal to Terrebonne in population. The population of these three townships is now in the neighborhood of 1,000.

Mr. BLAKE. The shape which the hon. gentleman proposes to give to Terrebonne is not a very compact one; it makes the county very long and very narrow. However, I think if the hon. gentleman's statement, as to the commercial and business relations of these parishes be accurate, as I have no doubt it is, and particularly if it is proposed to attach these townships to Terrebonne for municipal purposes, the proposition ought to receive consideration. I would suggest to the hon. gentleman to make a provision that in case these townships become municipally attached to Terrebonne, they should become attached to Terrebonne for electoral purposes. It will be observed that that is the plan adopted in the immediately preceding clause of the Bill with regard to the electoral district of Winnipeg.

Mr. DUGAS. I would suggest that part of the townships of Wexford and Kilkenny should be made part of the county of Terrebonne. By an Act of the Local Legislature passed in 1872, they were annexed to the county of Terrebonne for