

June 1st, 1872

It is also proposed to re-adjust the Ridings of Wellington. As they now stand they are very unequally divided—South Wellington contains a population of 14,347; Centre Wellington, 24,459; and North Wellington, 24,484. It is proposed to re-adjust that representation by making South Wellington, 23,432; Centre, 21,118; and North, 18,740, being a close approximation to an equalization of the Ridings. This is all the readjustment that we propose for Ontario.

In Nova Scotia it is proposed to give the counties of Cape Breton and Pictou each two members. In New Brunswick the city and county of St. John, as now existing is also to have two members.

I omitted to state that it is not intended to divide either Ottawa or Hamilton. Although we have adopted in old Canada the principle of electoral divisions, it has not been considered in England a proper mode of representation, inasmuch as it so completely excludes minorities, and in some constituencies in England they have introduced the system which we now propose, for the purpose of protecting minorities. It is therefore proposed that Hamilton shall return two members and that the city shall not be divided.

Hon. Mr. HOLTON: How about Toronto?

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD: Toronto, having been divided into sections, the sectional principle has been continued there. The division of Toronto is this: St. David and St. Lawrence wards will form the Eastern division; St. John and St. James the Centre; and St. Andrew, St. George and St. Patrick the Western divisions.

In the Province of Quebec there is to be, of course, no increase in the number of representatives, but it is proposed to re-adjust the representation of Montreal. Anyone on looking at the census will see that, while East and West Montreal embrace large populations, Centre Montreal is exceedingly small, and out of all proportion to the others. It is proposed therefore to re-divide the city as follows: Montreal West to consist of the wards, as at present constituted, of St. Antoine and St. Lawrence; Montreal Centre, of St. Anne, west centre and east wards, as at present constituted; and Montreal East of St. Louis, St. James and St. Mary's wards. It is also proposed to add the Parish of St. Felix of Cap Rouge to the County of Quebec for electoral purposes. With those remarks, Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the first reading of the Bill.

Mr. ROSS (Wellington Centre) asked what was the proposed division of Wellington.

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD: It is proposed that the North Riding shall consist of Maryborough, Minto, Arthur, Mount Forest, Luther and Amaranth, having a total population of 18,740. The Centre Riding to consist of Pilkington, Elora, Nichol, Fergus, Garrafraxa West and East, Orangeville and Peel, with a population of 21,118. South Wellington to consist of

Puslinch, Guelph Township, Guelph, Eramosa, and Erin, with a population of 23,432.

Mr. CAMERON (Huron South) wished to know the proposed division of Huron.

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD: The North Riding of Huron is to consist of Howick, Ashfield, West Wawanosh, East Wawanosh, Morris, and Turnberry, with a population of 21,862; Centre Riding—Colborne, Hullett, McKillop, Tuckersmith, Grey, Town of Goderich, and village of Seaforth—population 22,791; South Riding—Goderich Township, Stanley, Hay, Stephen, Osborne, and Clinton Village—21,512.

In reply to Mr. Stirton, **Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD** stated that Grey would be divided as follows: North Holland, Sullivan, Sydenham, Owen Sound, Derby, Sarawak, Keppel, with a population of 18,380; East Riding—Proton, Melancthon, Osprey, Artemesia, Collingwood, Euphrasia, and St. Vincent—population 22,193; South Riding—Normanby, Egremont, Bentinck, and Glenelg—18,622.

Hon. Mr. BLAKE did not intend to discuss the details, but agreed that the principle of the division of the counties adopted was judicious, making the electoral divisions conterminous with the counties. He agreed that it was not well to urge the doctrine of representation by population too far, although it should be regarded as far as possible. He objected to the position laid down as to manufacturing interests being specially provided for. The counties in Ontario had large manufacturing interests among them, many of which he enumerated, and he denied that cities should be specially regarded as representing manufacturing interests.

From that point of view he confessed that the principle on which the constitution was framed was overlooked in the distribution of the seats as proposed by the Bill before the House. It was the increased population which should have the increased representation. It was by that increase the six members were given to Ontario, and he could not help feeling that the Government must go further than they had gone to satisfy the country. He believed there were some constituencies as small as any in British Columbia—Niagara and Cornwall being instances. The latter was in the county of Stormont, which had 18,000 people altogether, which was divided into the town of Cornwall, 7,000, and Stormont, 11,000. These anomalies ought to be got rid of.

As to the provisions for representing manufacturing interests, Halifax, in Nova Scotia, was entitled to another member, but in Nova Scotia the rural constituencies had alone been regarded. He denied that manufactures were represented only by members representing cities.

Montreal was represented not merely by hon. members, but