

motion of a member of the Opposition—that was the taking of Port Elgin from Saugeen and putting it into the north riding of Bruce. What are the facts? Members of the Opposition insisted that the whole district of Saugeen, including Port Elgin, should form part of the electoral riding of North Bruce.

HON. MR. AIKINS—That was not in their original motion.

HON. MR. POWER—Then Mr. Paterson again moved in amendment that the Bill be again recommitted to a committee of the whole with instructions that they have power to amend the same by providing that the township of Saugeen shall form part of the electoral district of the north riding of the county of Bruce. No doubt the gentleman who moved this amendment thought that the Government having consented to put the village of Port Elgin into the north riding of Bruce, would not have the face to let the township stand alone in another county. Under the present law which this Bill proposes to amend, the electoral district of Monck contained 17,145, being 3,762 below the quota, but by the change the population of Monck is reduced to 15,940. So that instead of being equalized the inequality has been increased in that case. I shall now call attention to one point that was dwelt on slightly by the hon. gentleman from Ottawa, and which contradicts, most emphatically, statements of the Minister of Inland Revenue. I find that eight of the seats in Eastern Ontario have the following population :—

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| South Grenville..... | 13,256 |
| North Leeds..... | 12,423 |
| Brockville..... | 15,207 |
| Frontenac..... | 14,993 |
| Kingston..... | 14,091 |
| West Peterboro'..... | 13,310 |
| Ottawa (2 seats)..... | 27,412 |

This gives an average for each seat of 13,946. The hon. gentleman will see how near that is to his average of 21,000.

HON. MR. AIKINS—If these seats had to be rearranged we would have had to change every constituency in the Province.

HON. MR. POWER—The Government took very good care not to interfere with counties that were in the habit of returning Conservative members. It was only the Reform constituencies of Western Ontario or the doubtful ones that were reconstructed. Hon. gentlemen seem to think that the “hiving” of Reform voters is a mere trifle; I wish to show that it is a very serious matter. I will just take eight constituencies, beginning with North Oxford, where the Liberal majority under this Bill would be 1,500; and the smallest of the eight would give a majority of 400. They aggregate a Liberal majority of 5,500. The force of that will be seen when we reflect that at the last general election the aggregate of the majorities in forty-one counties was only 2,305, so that there the Grit majorities have been combined to more than double the amount that would have been necessary to have turned the scale in the last general election in Ontario. There were nearly forty counties in which the majority was under 100, so that hon. gentlemen can see the full force of this proceeding. The friends of the Government have declared in the most persistent way that their policy is so acceptable to the country that if they went to the people on their policy and on their record they would come back with a larger majority than they have at present. I think, as a rule, those who boast the loudest are not the most confident. If the Government feel certain of the result of the elections, why do they go to the country at the expiration of four years instead of allowing Parliament to sit out its whole term? Why do they attempt to concentrate the Reform majorities in those few constituencies in Ontario, and why do they say to the constituencies that have sent members here to support them that they will not trust these constituencies again. They say to the constituency of Brockville, for instance, “True, you elected a supporter, but we doubt if you will do it again, and we will put in the trusty little town of Kitley to make you sure.” So they go from one constituency to another, taking off a township here and adding another there, showing that they do not believe that the constituencies that supported them before will support them again. It looks to me like a breach of trust on the part of the Government to do