

that it is considered but right that of the six new members one should be given to the Eastern portion of Ontario. All those counties in the east, with a single exception, are small, and cannot be subdivided, and therefore it was thought well that Ottawa should have this additional member, especially as it would be carrying out the principle of giving some addition to the manufacturing and commercial interests of Ontario.

With respect to the rural constituencies, the desire of the Government has been to preserve the representation for counties and subdivisions of counties as much as possible. It is considered objectionable to make representation a mere geographical term. (*Hear, hear.*) It is desired, as much as possible, to keep the representation within the county, so that each county that is a municipality of Ontario should be represented, and if it becomes large enough, that it should be divided into Ridings—that principle is carried out in the suggestions I am about to make. That rule was broken in 1867 in three constituencies, *vis.*, Bothwell, Cardwell, and Monck; and I do not think, on the whole, that the experiment has proved a successful one. I do not think it was unsuccessful as far as the representatives of those new constituencies themselves were concerned, as they are well ably represented by the gentlemen who now hold seats for the constituencies; and I hope that if I am returned again to the next Parliament I shall meet those hon. members.

But it is obvious that there is a great advantage in having counties elect men whom they know. Our municipal system gives an admirable opportunity to constituencies to select men for their deserts. We all know the process which happily goes on in Western Canada. A young man in a county commences his public life by being elected by the neighbours who know him to the Township Council. If he shows himself possessed of administrative ability he is made Reeve or Deputy-Reeve of his county. He becomes a member of the County Council, and as his experience increases and his character and abilities become known, he is selected by his people as their representative in Parliament. It is, I think, a grand system that the people of Canada should have the opportunity of choosing for political promotion the men in whom they have most confidence and of whose abilities they are fully assured.

All that great advantage is lost by cutting off a portion or two of several counties and adding them together for electoral purposes only. Those portions so cut off have no common interest: they do not meet together and they have no common feeling except that once in five years they go to the polls in their own township to vote for a man who may be known in one section and not in another. This tends towards the introduction and development of the American system of caucuses, by which wire-pullers take adventurers for their political ability only, and not from any personal respect for

them. So that, as much as possible, from any point of view, it is advisable that counties should refuse men whom they do not know; and when the representation is increased it should be by sub-dividing the counties into Ridings.

Acting upon this principle, it has been thought well to ask the House to give Huron, which has now two representatives in this House, an additional one. It has a population of 66,165, and it is proposed to sub-divide it into three Ridings, giving a population to each as follows:—North Riding, 12,862; Centre Riding, 22,791; South Riding, 21,512. It is proposed also to divide Grey, which has a population of 59,395, into three constituencies, North, East and South Ridings, containing severally, 18,580, 22,193, and 18,622 inhabitants.

There is only one constituency more to be given to Ontario, and, after full consideration, it has been thought well to carry out the principle that was initiated by giving representation to Algoma—a new country just opened for settlement and almost beyond the ken or protection of the law—in order to give confidence to settlers going there. The proposition was sanctioned by Parliament, and it has proved successful. It is proposed, therefore, to give Muskoka District, Parry Sound, and the District of Nipissing and part of Simcoe a member; and it will involve the necessity of giving those portions of Muskoka special practice in the same way as Algoma.

Hon. Mr. BLAKE: The hon. gentleman does not state the number of the population of Muskoka.

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD: The population of Muskoka proper and Nipissing and Parry Sound is upwards of 8,000.

Hon. Mr. BLAKE: Does that include the rear at Simcoe?

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD: No; as regards the part of Simcoe to be included, the government is not yet in a position to state their views, that is, as to the precise portion of North Simcoe which shall be added to make the constituency.

It is proposed then that the six members shall be as follows:—an additional member for Hamilton, Grey, Toronto, Huron and Ottawa, and a member for Muskoka. It is proposed to take the opportunity, in bringing down this bill, of re-adjusting the representation in the counties of Haldimand and Monck (*Hear, hear from Mr. Blake*) by taking the township of Dunn from Haldimand and adding it to Monck. The population of Haldimand at present is 20,091, that of Monck is 15,130. By adding the township of Dunn it diminishes Haldimand to 19,042, and increases Monck to 16,179, being an approximation towards equalization.