

three surrounding districts, which have been depleted of their Reform strength, portions of counties, in order to make two or three Tory constituencies where possible. There is not a change that does not run in that direction. To talk about justice after a game like that is to insult the common sense of every man in the House. I do not wonder that some of the hon. gentleman's followers hang their heads with shame. Oh, they can howl as loud as they like; if they had the power, they would be demons. They may well hang their heads with shame, for, fearing to meet us before the people, of whom they boasted they had the confidence, they have used their strong legislative power to legislate us out of Parliament. But they meet us with loaded dice and gerrymandering the constituencies to beat us at the polls by trickery and not by the unrestrained voice of the people. I have not had an opportunity of looking at the map, which will show something, I dare say, that would recall a document exhibited by me a few years ago, and to which the hon. the First Minister referred by saying I described it as not the likeness of anything in the heaven above or in the earth beneath. The population of Huron in 1871 was so Grit that the county had to be gerrymandered—it did not answer his purpose. I understood him to say that a township was taken off it, which I believe was to insure the catching of a Tory gudgeon in that constituency. During my twenty-five years of political life, I have never witnessed so infamous a proposition as I believe this to be. Infamous as I believe it, infamous as I regard it, I believe it will be carried out. It is brought down in the interests of hon. gentlemen who will vote for it, because it will secure them seats that they know they would lose, if the unchanged constituencies were appealed to. If it had been done in the interests of equalizing constituencies, Ontario would not have been the only Province that would have been dealt with. The other Provinces has as large inequalities as that of Ontario, with the exception of the favored borough of Niagara, and nothing has been done with them. The principle acted on is that Ontario alone is to be dealt with in this matter. Knowing that defeat stared them in the face, the Government have so gerrymandered the constituencies in Ontario that no doubt many of them will have changed their political complexion under the manipulation, and hon. gentlemen opposite will succeed to a very great extent in the object they have had in view. To say that the supporters of the Government interested have not all been consulted in this matter is sheer folly. The hon. member for Essex just now said that changes were made of which he did not approve. Was he consulted, or did he voluntarily come forward just now for the first time to say he did not approve of that change? There is not one of the Tory party in Ontario from the lowest to the greatest, that has not been consulted in this matter, and there is not a constituency represented by a Liberal from Ontario that has not had Tory delegations down here consulting the Ministers in reference to this matter. I could see them two weeks after the beginning of the Session, coming in day after day, and they were received by certain members who had the matter in charge. The whole thing has been going on as regular as clock work and now we find the result. I do not believe it will have the effect they desire, for I think that the feelings of an outraged people will revolt against such scheming as this. I have not patience to express my feelings on this subject. I feel a little like the man who was addicted to a great deal of profanity and was driving a waggon load of pumpkins up a hill. Some of the boys thought they would hear some tall swearing and lifted the tail-board out of the wagon. He drove his oxen until he got to the top of the hill, when he looked back and saw the pumpkins rolling down and the

boys watching him to hear what he would say; but he said very little. One of the boys said: "Why don't you swear?" "Why," he said: "I could not do justice to the occasion." So I feel. The amenities of this House would be outraged were I to give expression to my feelings, and I do not want to outrage them. But if any hon. gentleman wishes to talk this matter over with me outside the House, there would be some strong denunciations used.

Mr. BOULTBEE. It is rather an unfortunate thing that this Bill should, on its initiation, produce a rather bad effect on the House, at least on some portion of it. Hon. gentlemen opposite seem to have lost their temper to a very unfortunate extent, except one of them who generally loses his temper quicker than any one else, the hon. gentleman for Centre Huron. He appeared smiling in a much more genial manner than I ever saw him in before, I conclude that he must feel secure and pretty comfortable about his seat. It is rather apparent that his colleagues do not feel very comfortable about theirs. It is an instructive example in this House, to find the sort of feeling that animates these gentlemen. We never knew before what a pure set of patriots they are. If they had to distribute the constituencies they would do it in such a way as patriotically to serve the Conservative party, to aid it by consulting those supposed to be best informed on the subject. In the way they did it in the Ontario House, we have an indication of the way they would make the distribution on this occasion. From what I know of what took place in the arrangement in the Ontario House, and from what I can bear in mind of what is proposed in this Bill, there is no such gerrymandering here as was proposed and actually carried out in Ontario. Oh, but they say then it was all right. Now the boot is on the other foot. That was done in the interest of Gritism, of the faithful. But with this Bill these hon. gentlemen have lost their temper and made use of language which properly ought not to be used on the floor of this House towards their opponents. However, the hon. member for South Wentworth made a different speech in this House from what he ever made before, for I never heard him make one unless to damage an opponent or hurt his feelings; but on this occasion he was so affected that he compared himself to a man who was driving a waggon load of pumpkins up a hill and lost them all before he got to the top. That is what I expected it would look as if some one had taken the tail boards out of the waggons of the hon. gentlemen opposite and their pumpkins had rolled down the hill, for I never saw a set of men looking so downhearted. They have attacked this Bill in an unfair manner. Not one of them said this was an arrangement to distribute the seats strictly according to population and geographical propriety. They cannot deny that.

Some hon. MEMBERS. We do deny it.

Mr. BOULTBEE. Their abject demeanor shows that they think a re-arrangement of the constituencies in Ontario strictly according to population and with geographical propriety, wipes Gritism out of existence. Why should that be so? I am unable to follow the effect of the re-arrangement, and I know the political complexion of Ontario as well as any one. I say, as was said by the hon. leader of the Government, you cannot define that in that sort of way. You do not know from one election to another what the result is going to be, but we gather from these hon. gentlemen that re-arranging the seats so as to divide Ontario into ninety-two or ninety-four constituencies—I do not remember the number—so as to give them as nearly equal population as possible, and be as geographically correct as possible, means the utter defeat and extinction of Gritism, I am not surprised it should be so. These gentlemen are determined in carrying out their own ideas, and have set themselves against the will of the