

hands of the revising officer in regard to the alteration of the wards is a very dangerous one, and will only cause confusion where it is exercised. In 1871, when the leader of the Government proposed to add a number of representatives to those returned from the Province of Ontario to this House, although his scheme was questioned by our friends on some grounds, still he declined to interfere with municipal boundaries. He said that a young man first became a member of a municipal council, and after that perhaps a reeve and perhaps the warden of his county, and, when the people in the county became aware of his abilities, after some time perhaps he was elected to be their representative in the Local House or in this House, and it was therefore desirable that those municipal boundaries should be preserved, and he positively refused to interfere with those boundaries. When I read those remarks, I thought they were well put, but, in 1882, I felt sorry that, when it became his duty again to readjust the constituencies in the Province of Ontario, in place of adhering to those views, he broke up the boundaries of almost every county in the Province.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. The hon. member will please confine his remarks to the subject under discussion.

Mr. McMULLEN. I am trying to show—

Mr. CHAIRMAN. You cannot discuss another Bill except in its bearing upon this.

Mr. MACKENZIE. He can use it by way of illustration.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. Yes, but he cannot go into details.

Mr. CHARLTON. The hon. gentleman is merely indulging in a retrospective view of the history of the country.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. Order. I have called the hon. gentleman to Order.

Mr. McMULLEN. I was referring to that measure in order to show why I thought it desirable that the boundaries of townships and wards should not be interfered with, why I considered it desirable that the present arrangements should not be disturbed, and why the revising officer should not have the power to alter the wards. By the changes which took place in the years I referred to, the voters were put to a great deal of confusion and inconvenience. I have known voters to drive first to one poll and then to another, not knowing which to go to in order to record their votes. I have known men who were in such confusion with regard to the county they lived in that afterwards they did not know but that the township they lived in had been added to another county. I was adducing these arguments to show that the power of alteration given to the revising officer should be limited to as great an extent as possible. Farmers are not in the habit of studying a franchise Bill, and are frequently not posted as to how to record their votes, and it is very hard to get them drilled into the way to record their votes when an alteration is made. When the ballot was introduced a large number of the ballots first cast were spoiled, though one would suppose that, from the very plain and explicit directions which were given, people would understand how to record their votes. I have been trying to impress upon hon. members the necessity of avoiding these changes, and I hope, when the clause is reached, it will be amended so as to accept the polling sub-divisions in any township where they have been made. The question of expense is going to be the most important item in connection with this whole Bill. Above all things, seeing that our population is not increasing, and the influx of immigration is not increasing as we should like to see it, we ought to try in every possible way to avoid increasing the amount of the people's burdens, and this

Mr. McMULLEN.

Bill will undoubtedly tend in the direction of increasing them. We have a great many public works which are costing the country a great amount of money. The Canadian Pacific Railway has been costing large sums of money, though probably it is a work which will be of advantage to the Dominion, but, where anything can be done without a great increase of expense, it is highly improper that we should incur such an expense. I have made a calculation as to the amount this measure would cost in the constituency which I represent. There are eleven municipalities in North Wellington, and, estimating that a copy of the voters' list for each municipality would cost \$20, that would be \$220. I do not think you will get any person to copy the assessment roll for that amount; then, again, there is the printing of the list, the present cost of which is about \$285 for the whole 11 municipalities; and I do not think it will be possible for the Dominion to get a list printed for less than that. Now if you allow the revising barristers, say, \$50 for each municipality, for his services, or \$550 for the county, and allow the constable \$250, and the clerk \$600, you can get an idea of what it is going to cost. I presume the clerk would have to be kept continually employed, for it is desirable, whoever may be appointed, that he should keep his position from year to year; and you cannot get men who will do that work for less than \$600 a year. Then take the stationery and printing, \$200; notices, bills, posters and everything connected with the duties of the revising officer, the clerk, the bailiff, and we have a total amount for that constituency of \$2,105. For the whole 211 constituencies you will have a sum total of \$441,155; that would virtually be half a million dollars that it will cost the country for the purpose of getting up those lists. I know it is said that it will cost more the first year than it will subsequently, but I think you will find that once you inaugurate a staff of officials for that purpose and name their salary, you will have great difficulty in reducing the sum named at first. We all know that once men get a position at a certain salary, they insist upon its being continued and resist any reduction. Besides that, the man who happens to sit for the constituency, let him be Reformer or Conservative, will be subjected to the influence of these men to have their salary kept up at the point at which it was at first fixed. This revising officer and clerk will be very important officers, and will exercise considerable influence, either for or against the candidate; and I have no doubt that when hon. gentlemen come back to this House they will do their very best to secure to the revising officer, the clerk and the constable, an increase of salary, if possible. So if we anticipate a reduction in the amount that it is annually going to cost the country, we are anticipating something that will not be realised. Now, this is a very important consideration and I believe if there is one thing in connection with this Bill that will bring it more pointedly before the people than another, and will do more to secure their condemnation of it, it is the question of expense. There is no necessity for it; it will put the people to a double expense. At the present time the people of the Provinces cannot accept the rolls prepared by the Dominion for their provincial elections; the municipalities cannot accept that roll because they have to have a different roll of their own for assessment purposes. They have to go round from year to year and assess the different municipalities for the purpose of levying the rates, and consequently must have an assessment roll of their own; therefore the people will be put to the expense of making two rolls, one for the purpose of electing members to this House, and another for the purpose of electing municipal officers and members to the Local Legislatures. It costs the people a good deal now to prepare the rolls under which members are elected to this House and to the Local Legislatures; and instead of spending money to make another roll, I think it would be better to