

for agricultural purposes. Not more than one farmer in fifteen would settle upon the part yet unsettled; and instead of that country increasing in population, it is more likely to decrease during the next decade. So, if that was the only ground for the argument of the hon. member for South Bruce, it would have been better if he had not presented it. I am somewhat surprised that they desired to push through this measure. It was shown, by the last election, that the Conservatives would certainly have as good a chance as they could have desired or can wish for to defeat any candidate in the Liberal cause for North Bruce, so there are no grounds for saying there should be an increase of the population in the west riding unless it be to make doubly sure of defeating a Liberal in the north riding. The Conservatives will certainly have something in the neighborhood of 150 or 200 of a majority, with which they surely should be satisfied. For their own sake, the Conservatives should show some liberality in this matter; it would certainly be more in their own favor than dividing that county in the way proposed. It will be found, when the redistribution is made, that instead of increasing that section of the country, it will diminish it as compared with the other ridings in that county. The arguments offered by the hon. first Minister, and especially by the hon. member for South Bruce, are simply technical and flimsy, and therefore discreditable to them. If the Government desire to carry this measure through, in its crude iniquity, as seems apparent, there is one thing that will be satisfactory: that it will, to a certain extent, carry its own destruction to this side of the House with it.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The hon. member for the west riding of Durham made a suggestion a little while ago, similar to the proposal of this motion—that Saugeen and Port Elgin should be taken away from the west riding and added to the north. Now, I will meet the hon. gentleman half way; we will take Port Elgin from the west riding and add it to the north riding of Bruce.

Mr. BLAKE. I am delighted to hear the hon. gentleman make that proposal. The return for Port Elgin shows that Port Elgin is about equally divided in political opinion, and that it would not hurt his Tory candidate to put it in the north riding. Why does he not propose that Port Elgin shall be taken into the riding. Everybody knows why. He proposes to leave with us the smaller of the two in point of population, so as to make the discrepancy as much as he can, Port Elgin having 1,100 and the other over 2,200 of a population. He proposes to leave with the north riding that which has a very slight Reform majority, and to take into the riding in which he is living the Grits that have a substantial majority. I am glad the hon. gentleman makes the proposal, because it indicates that in every line of the Bill, and every amendment proposed, he has but one idea, that of strengthening his own friends and weakening his adversaries.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. It was the hon. gentleman, and not I, who made the proposition. To be sure he wanted the two. I made no suggestion, because I was quite satisfied with his division. The hon. gentleman asked for the whole, and we give him the half, and half a loaf is better than no bread. The hon. gentleman would like us to do as Mr. Mowat did in Huron—take Goderich and a slice running along the shore in order to connect it by an artificial connection. Suppose we take a strip of Saugeen and Port Elgin, would that satisfy the hon. gentleman? We have a precedent for it in the Local Legislature.

Mr. BLAKE. The hon. gentleman says he did not propose to add Port Elgin to the north riding. No; he proposed to take it from the north riding, and his counter proposal to my hon. friend now is that he will remit so much population in the north riding as is comprised in the village of Port Elgin, and I say we know the reason. We

Mr. GILLIES.

see from that what the hon. gentleman considers is the political complexion of these two municipalities, and while dealing with it in a way in which he pretends to remedy the evil, he substantially makes no particular change. The majority in Port Elgin was nine, so that the leader of the Government, having looked at the electoral returns, or heard from the hon. Minister of Customs or somebody else, that Port Elgin is about equally divided and that Saugeen is a strong Grit town, takes this process ostensibly to meet the views of hon. gentlemen on this side, while in reality making no material concession to their wishes. By replacing Port Elgin, which is about equally divided, no material change is made, while by not replacing Saugeen, which has a strong Liberal majority, the Liberals are hived as originally intended.

Mr. SHAW. There is one remark I would like to make in reply to the hon. member for North Bruce. He has forgotten to mention in regard to the Indian Peninsula, that no railway has been constructed to run into that district until lately. One is now under construction, and that portion of the county is now being opened up. That accounts largely for the increase of population in late years, and that increase is going on. No doubt Port Elgin is very equally divided. Surely, therefore, there could be no objection to its going into the north riding. If it is considered better, I might make another suggestion, that is, to divide the township of Saugeen and let half go to the north and half to the south riding.

Mr. BLAKE. Why should we divide it?

Mr. SHAW. To come nearer your opinion, that the populations should be more nearly equalized and less regard paid to territory. We believe the present arrangement is fair. It is a matter that has been discussed in that county by my hon. friend and myself. I recollect we discussed representation by population, and I recollect the very last time I met my hon. friend at Port Elgin at a public meeting. I stated I was aware that at this Session the county of Bruce would ask for another representative, and he would be here to assist me. I am sure he does not object to that, but only to the division.

Mr. MILLS. The hon. gentleman, in the first instance, was represented by the hon. First Minister as his agent. Now, he makes a proposition in his own name. He tells us he is willing to divide Saugeen. A few moments ago he said that the township and village municipality was a very convenient unit, but very great inconvenience would arise from any attempt to divide township and village municipalities as two voters' lists would be required, and many other inconveniences would result. It is perfectly obvious, from the offer the hon. gentleman makes, that he feels this matter is entirely in his own hands, that he is here as the proprietor of the county of Bruce, and that the hon. First Minister is simply his agent; and the reports we heard of townships being traded off and of the disputes that took place are verified by the proposition of the hon. member for South Bruce. The hon. gentleman stated that there is a prospect of population coming into North Bruce, and that therefore the division of that county into ridings ought not to be equal, and that South Bruce and West Bruce ought to have a larger population than North Bruce. I supposed that, in making a division under this Census, we were acting on the Census taken, and not on some imaginary Census that might exist at some future period. The elections that will take place in the course of a few weeks will be elections by the electors that are in the constituencies at present, and the members returned will be the representatives of those electors and not the representatives of a population likely to be there at some future time. There is a provision of the Constitution requiring us to readjust the population every ten years on the basis of the Census, but