

entitled it to a fuller representation in the Legislature than it had at present. Manitoba, with its population of 10,000, had a Local Legislature of twenty-five members, or one to every 400 of population; British Columbia, with a population of 15,000, returned twenty-five members, or one for every 600 people; Prince Edward Island, with a population of 90,000, returned thirty members, or one to 3,000 of a population; while Algoma, with a population of 27,000, was only represented by one member in this Legislature. Candidates for election in that district had to travel west to the Lake of the Woods, and thence to James' Bay on the north, a distance of 1,500 miles, and to ascertain the views of electors it was necessary to travel thousands of miles. There were large tracts of valuable territory there, and capable of supporting several millions of people, waiting to be developed. Manitoulin Island was also a district of great capabilities, and was even now progressing in common with the rest of Algoma with great rapidity. Seven years ago it was almost an unbroken wilderness, peopled by two or three hundred people; now it contained a population of 7,000, and some farms as good as would be found in any part of the Province. There were in Algoma eight agricultural societies, and between thirty and forty organized school sections, with an assessed value of school property of over \$1,000,000. A district progressing so rapidly as Algoma was doing was deserving of a larger representation than it had. Within the last four years there had been three elections, and if the change he proposed were not made now, but postponed until after the general elections, there would be three more within the next three years, greatly to the inconvenience of the people. He trusted the Government would take the matter into consideration, and introduce a measure into the House to divide Algoma into two electoral divisions, each of which would be five hundred miles long and five hundred miles wide. A district capable of being thus divided was quite large enough to return two members to the House. (Cheers.)

Mr. MOWAT said he was sure that every hon. member of the House heartily concurred in the remarks of his hon. friend for Algoma with regard to the importance of that district. Covering, as it did, an area almost as large as all the rest of Ontario, if it were represented in proportion to its size, it would have 88 members on the floor of the House, and he had no doubt the day would come when their representation would be something in that proportion, for its population, development, and wealth would increase more rapidly hereafter than it had yet done. With regard to the question of additional representation, it was one which the Government could hardly enter into at present. It was not well to make frequent changes in the representation. Only one change had been made since Confederation, and it was the policy of the Government not to make further changes if they were at all avoidable until the next census, which came on before very long, when a new arrangement of the representation would be made as was deemed advisable. The new boundaries of this district required ratification by the Dominion Parliament before the territory could be divided by the Province of Ontario into different electoral districts. But every hon. member in the House was specially interested in the new addition to the Province, and felt an interest in it second only to that felt by each in the constituency in which he lived, or which he represented, and in this sense it might be said that all represented Algoma. (Hear, hear.) There was no doubt then that the affairs of the district would not suffer for want of careful and interested supervision. There could be no doubt that the Province had been entitled to the additional territory which she required, that the Dominion Parliament would grant whatever legislation was wanted to provide for the administration of the affairs of the new district. The grant had been made as the result of an arbitration to which both parties had submitted the case. It would be as discreditable for the Dominion to attempt to evade the result as for one State to fail to keep a contract with another, and there was no reason whatever to suppose that the Dominion would not recognize the right of Ontario to hold the new territory. Algoma might rely upon the House, and his hon. friend its representative might

rely that the people of the older districts were anxious for the development of the country, and though Algoma had but one representative in the House her interests would be guarded most carefully.

Mr. SCOTT sympathized very much with the motion of his hon. friend from Algoma, but was of opinion that the representation in the House should be reduced rather than increased. He was not averse to giving Algoma an additional member in the next Parliament, but thought such action ought to follow a readjustment of the representation of the entire Province. A comparison had been made in an earlier part of the session between the representation of Ontario and that of some of the States of the Union, but a fairer comparison would be one between this Province and the Mother Country. The representation in Ontario was one member in 30,000, while in Great Britain it was one in 50,000. He took the same ground that the Hon. Attorney-General had taken, that an additional member was not necessary to the preservation of the interests of Algoma.

Mr. MILLER said that it was a favourite position with some hon. members in the House that all the members were especially representatives of Algoma, and he supposed they would also include in their constituencies Muskoka and Parry Sound. If they were really in earnest in their position, he would hand over to the Hon. Attorney-General and the hon. member for West Peterboro' upwards of a hundred unanswered letters which he had received from his constituents relative to their interest. Mention had been made of the late member for Algoma, and he (Mr. Miller) knew that Mr. Dawson was in favour of making Algoma a separate Province. He (Mr. Miller) was thoroughly in accord with those positions, and he would be prepared to advocate the detaching of Muskoka and Parry Sound from Ontario, and uniting them to Algoma to form a new Province.

Mr. MEREDITH—That would be secession.

Mr. MILLER said it was, but he contended that the outlying districts had never received justice at the hands of the Legislature. Large revenues were derived from them and distributed at a *per capita* rate among the people of the older parts of the Province, while the districts from which they were drawn were left entirely undeveloped. He had advocated the construction of a railroad from the terminus of the Northern Railway to Algoma, but that scheme and other schemes for the opening up of the new settlements had been strongly opposed by leading men in Ontario. The Province of Quebec was before them in the way of developing the outer portions of their territory, and the building of the North Shore Railway would secure to her a very large portion of the trade that might have fallen to Ontario had she adopted a policy of pushing forward railroads into the Muskoka and Parry Sound districts. He felt his inability to lay the claims of his constituency before the House with the same force as if it were represented by six members instead of one, but the sense he had of the importance of the new districts was his sole excuse for troubling the House so often. He argued that the representation in the British House of Commons showed that the principle was recognized there that the rural population was entitled to a larger representation according to their population than the cities, and the portions of the country more densely peopled. New districts should be represented upon a different basis than representation by population, and he would point to the cases of British Columbia and Manitoba as a proof that it had never been carried out. He prophesied that the number of members would not be reduced while the Province remained as it was, and showed that the giving of an additional member each to Muskoka, Parry Sound, and Algoma would increase the cost of legislation only by about \$1,400 or \$1,500. It was not right that when a surplus of \$4,000,000 or \$5,000,000 was lying in the treasury so little should be done for the parts of the Province in process of settlement. Sir Hugh Allan had said in a speech at Peterboro' that the grain trade of the great North-West must flow over that road. A road was now being built down through Renfrew, and if it were not tapped the great trade would flow past Ontario. England