

was now spending vast sums in forcibly opening up to trade both Afghanistan and Zululand, but we had hardly the right to claim relationship with Great Britain in respect of enterprise. He had lost all hope of this House rising equal to the occasion. The people up in the new districts were able to keep up a legislature of their own. They had more people, and were better able to take care of themselves than the Province of British Columbia. He thought it unfair that the people of this Province should continue to receive the money from this district and still refuse to aid in the true policy which would lead to the development of the country.

Mr. CURRIE thought the thanks of this House were due to the member from Algoma for bringing about a discussion fraught with so much interest. As a representative of one of the oldest constituencies in the Province he was willing in a short time, if not now, to give the people of Algoma what was asked for by the motion. He was surprised to hear hon. members say that the people of Ontario were over-represented. It was the policy of the Conservative party to reduce the representation, and this movement came with bad grace from them, considering what had been done by them in connection with the admission of British Columbia to the Dominion. They had in the first place two senators; Cariboo, with a voting population of 232, had a representative in the House of Commons, and other constituencies were in the same proportion. The position they stood in was that each member in this House represented on an average about 20,000 people, and any gentleman who did this had enough to do. Let the Conservatives go before the people with this as one of the planks of their platform. It might be convenient to the Government of the day to reduce the representation, but he believed in leaving the people's affairs in the hands of the people. The hon. member for Algoma had the sympathy of many members on the floor of the House. They should feel for people who had gone out into that new country and struggled for its development as the people there were doing. He trusted the day would soon come when the representation for Algoma would be larger, and somewhat more in proportion to the importance of the district.

Mr. MEREDITH said the hon. member for Muskoka spoke of the timber and other resources of the unsettled districts belonged to the people of that part of the Province. This was wrong, for these resources belonged to the whole of Ontario. He thought the case of Algoma was a special one and required special dealing with, but he did not see why additional representation should not be given to it without adding to the number of members of the House. The representation in the Dominion House was a different matter from the representation here, and the Conservative party were opposed to an increase of the representation in the Ontario Legislature such as had taken place in the Dominion House. The British Columbia representation was a matter of contract, and had been approved by the representatives of the people. He did not understand the hon. member for Welland speaking as if the rights of the people would be interfered with by a reduction. Would not the people be the electors of a smaller as well as of the present number, and would it take away from the people any rights they had? By the reduction of the number of members from the older constituencies the proportionate representation of the new districts would be increased, and this was the policy he hoped to see carried out.

Mr. PARDEE said that the hon. member for London had stated that the Conservative party did not desire a reduction in the number of members of the House, while his hon. friend from West Peterborough had boldly taken the position that a radical decrease should be made. He admitted that Algoma in the near future must have increased representation, but it must be remembered that it was only a very short time since the limits of that district were strictly defined. There was no doubt that the leader of the Government had the whole matter under consideration, and if he occupied the same position next session as he did now, Algoma would doubtless receive the justice it certainly deserved. It was an unsound contention that the

revenue derived from new districts should be expended within their borders; it might be said with equal reason that the duties obtained from the large distillery in Toronto should be entirely laid out within the city. He maintained that the Province had dealt liberally with its outlying portions. Large sums had been expended upon colonization roads, and the Legislature had showed its willingness to help Muskoka by offering a bonus of \$8,000 a mile for the building of a railroad from Gravenhurst to Lake Nipissing. That offer had not been accepted, but doubtless when good times returned some enterprising company would take the matter up. In the meantime it was hardly fair to say that the Province was not acting generously and liberally towards those parts of her domains which were peculiarly deserving of aid. He dissented from the views of his hon. friend from Muskoka that the people in that constituency would prefer secession to a continuation of their connection with the rest of the Province.

The resolution was withdrawn.

MARKET FEES.

Mr. CURRIE moved that all petitions presented to this House during the present session respecting market fees on farm produce be referred to the Select Committee, to which was referred the Bill to amend the Municipal Act. Carried.

LUNATICS IN GAOLS.

Mr. ROSS moved for an Order of the House for a return of the number of lunatics who were confined in the several common gaols of this Province in the years 1871, 1874, and 1878, and the aggregate number of days during which lunatics were so confined in these years. Carried.

LAND IMPROVEMENT FUND.

Mr. GIBSON moved for an address for copies of all correspondence between the Government of Ontario and that of the Dominion as to the Land Improvement Fund, more particularly as to that portion which accrued between the 6th of March, 1861, and the 30th June, 1867. The people of the counties of Huron, Grey, and Bruce had, unlike the people of Algoma who received their lands for nothing, to pay \$5 an acre for them. He thought that if Algoma decided upon seceding from the Province she would find her resources mortgaged by the construction of the proposed railway from Fort William to Manitoba. The moneys paid in Huron and Bruce for Crown and school lands had been appropriated for the building of roads in the Opeongo, Bobcaygeon, and other new districts. Since Confederation the counties had been regularly receiving their share of the fund that had accrued from those payments, but they had received no part of the moneys paid between 1861 and 1867. They now thought that that portion of the fund should be distributed, and if there was any correspondence on the subject it would be well to have it brought down. There was no doubt that the revenue accruing from the sale of school lands was entitled to be paid over, although there might be some dubiety as to the revenue from Crown lands. The counties were entitled to their share of the fund, and he hoped the Government would deal with the matter in such a way as to enable them to get it.

Mr. HAY said that the people of Perth had been in past years greatly aided by the revenue received from the Land Improvement Fund, and they were anxiously looking for the distribution of the remaining portion. His hon. friend from East Huron had said that the people of Algoma had got their lands for nothing, but it must be remembered that the land there was not equal in value to the land in the counties of Huron and Perth. He would rather pay \$5 an acre for land in Huron than take up lands in Algoma for nothing. He thoroughly agreed with the hon. members for Algoma and Muskoka that those districts were entitled to large expenditures to assist in their development. He would like to see larger amounts spent there than had been spent, for there was nothing that would do more good to the entire Province than the opening up of those settlements. The cities of the Province would never attain the growth they should attain if they did not attract to themselves the trade of Algoma and the other new districts. The railway he was promoting—the Stratford and Huron—would do more to open up Manitoulin