

Assembly, and it so ratified the agreement shall be valid and effectual to all intents and purposes.

Mr. MEREDITH contended that the cases could be considered between this session and the next, when the House could deal with the proposals rather than give their assent in advance.

Hon. A. M. ROSS said the Government had no present intention of making any reduction in regard to the debt. The House must remember that the debt had been running many years, and there was a great unwillingness on the part of one municipality to pay, and the Government was desirous of getting it settled. He thought the Government should be trusted to make the arrangement, especially as it would have to be ratified by the House.

The motion was carried.

REDISTRIBUTION.

Hon. A. S. HARDY, in rising to move the second reading of the Bill to divide the Electoral District of Algoma for electoral purposes, and otherwise to re-adjust the representation of the people in the Legislative Assembly, said:—The people of Muskoka and Parry Sound have been for a long time urging that the district should be divided for electoral purposes, and the force of their arguments was felt by the Government and also by all to whom their arguments were addressed. Since the first reading of the Bill meetings have been held in some sections of the very extensive territory comprising this electoral district, and the people are unanimously of the opinion that Muskoka should have a member of its own, and Parry Sound also a separate member. Ordinarily the population of these districts is not enough to entitle them to two members, as the census shows that they have only about 27,000; the population has, however, lately increased with great rapidity, and it is still increasing with great rapidity. Taking then this fact into consideration and the fact of the extended territory—I believe stretching over 140 miles in length—the Government has concluded to give

AN ADDITIONAL MEMBER TO MUSKOKA

and Parry Sound, giving to each district one member, which will increase the membership of the House from 89 to 90. Something has been said about the effect of changing municipalities from one riding to another upon the electoral division agricultural societies, and it is proposed to ask the House in Committee to assent to the general provision that no change shall be made by reason of the present redistribution in the constitution of the societies unless in the County of Bruce, where three ridings have been created instead of two. In speaking of the case of Toronto when addressing the House on the first reading of the Bill, I was under the impression that what are known as the three-cornered constituencies, or minority represented constituencies in England, are confined to certain towns and cities named in the Act of 1867—Manchester, Leeds, Liverpool, and Birmingham.

Mr. MEREDITH—Glasgow?

Hon. A. S. HARDY—That is under the Scottish Representation Act. I find that certain counties were not specifically mentioned in the Act, and therefore I had my attention drawn exclusively to the towns. I see now, however, that there are certain counties having the principle of minority representation. I urged, however, in dealing with the question on the first reading that even if it did apply to counties in England, the position of counties was so very different here that it would not do to apply it here. The area, means of transport, and other circumstances here make it impossible for any one man to make himself known, or his influence felt, over such a district as would be formed by some of our large counties. Again, the difference between some of the large towns or cities in England and the counties is not so great as between the larger towns and cities and the counties here, and acting upon these principles, therefore, we did not propose to ask the House to apply the minority system of voting to counties. It is proposed to ask the House in committee to change the name of East Grey to Centre Grey, and divide Victoria into East and West, instead of North and South. In looking over the election returns in connection with Victoria, it appears that all the townships which compose the district of Haliburton were not carried out in the columns relating to population, and my calculation, taking the totals as then given, made the population of North Victoria only 13,780, and South Victoria over 20,000. That 13,780 only embraces two or three townships of Haliburton, and if these were deducted it would reduce North Victoria to something over 12,000. The townships of Haliburton belonging to North Victoria have a population of 5,911, which, if added to the 12,839, would give us at present 18,750 to North Victoria and 20,813 to South Victoria. By making the change I have mentioned and adding the townships of Emily and Verulam to the East Riding, we have the township of Ops, Mariposa, Eldon, and Carden, and Dalton with the town of Lindsay for the West with a population of 19,193. These are substantially all the changes I propose. Some caricatures have appeared which pretend to represent the constituencies as proposed by the Bill, and I have had prepared a map of the counties affected by the Bill and also of the counties of Simcoe and Bruce and Wellington showing that these counties are very irregular as constituted municipally. All these counties are naturally very irregular in their formation, and one map shows this while another

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE

Fifth Parliament—Second Session.

(By Our Own Reporters.)

Tuesday, March 17.

The Speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE.

Mr. FRASER presented the report of the Select Committee on Bill 68, and bills referring to insurance companies.

The report was received.

FIRST READINGS.

Mr. GIBSON (Hamilton) introduced a bill to amend the Act respecting certain conveyances, which was read a first time.

ROMAN CATHOLICS ON SCHOOL BOARDS.

Before the Orders of the Day were called, Mr. FRASER rose to explain a misunderstanding as to what he had said in reference to the appointment of Roman Catholics on Public and High School Boards. He had been represented as having said that Roman Catholics were never appointed on these School Boards. He had not said this. In the town of Brockville a Roman Catholic had been for a number of years on the School Board, and the same was true in many other parts of the Province. What he had said was, that it was as a matter of courtesy more than as a matter of right.

THE PUBLIC FISHERIES.

The Bill to regulate the Public Fisheries of the Province was discharged and referred back to Committee to make certain amendments. The House went into Committee, Mr. Baxter in the chair. The word public was struck out of the Bill, and the Bill was reported as amended.

THIRD READING.

Mr. FRASER, in the absence of Mr. O'Connor, moved the third reading of the Bill to amend the Act respecting Mutual Fire Insurance Companies. Carried.

THE DEBENTURE DEBTS.

Hon. A. M. ROSS —That this House will, on to-morrow resolve itself into a Committee to consider the following resolutions:—

1. That it is expedient to provide in respect of the debts owing to this Province by certain municipalities on debentures heretofore delivered by such municipalities to the Treasurer of this Province in pursuance of the arrangements made by statute as to the debts of municipalities on account of the Municipal Loan Fund, that the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may give further time for the payment of the said debts, and for that purpose may, in discharge of the said debts, take and receive from the said municipalities respectively new debentures for the sums due to the Province, as well for interest and principal past due as for interest or principal not yet payable, such new debentures to be payable with interest half-yearly, at the rate of five per cent. per annum, and to be of such amounts and payable at such dates or periods and in such manner as the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may require.

2. That it is expedient further to provide that if the Lieutenant-Governor in Council agrees to accept less than the full amount due to the Province for principal and interest, the agreement shall not be operative unless and until the same shall have been ratified by a resolution of the Legislative