

the majority to 246. Next came Simcoe. The hon. member who sat for the West riding was elected, not by reason of party influence, but largely by reason of his personal popularity and business capabilities. But he knew his hold on the seat was very insecure. The member for the East riding was only elected by a majority of 20. What had been done to secure these two ridings for the Reformers? They had re-adjusted the whole of Simcoe. They had re-divided the county or so arranged it that instead of there being a Grit majority of 42 in West Simcoe, they will have 177, and instead of a majority of 20 in the East they will have 190. (Cheers.) In order to do this they had made the constituencies of such a shape that in order to go from one to the other a person must pass through a neighbouring constituency. (Applause.) The Provincial Secretary had abandoned his principles in the present bill. It would be recollected how the hon. gentleman protested once against the mangling of municipalities. He used such forcible terms that one could almost see the blood running. (Laughter.) If hon. members would turn to the 5th section of the bill they would find the hon. gentleman's original scheme was to take part of Muskoka and Parry Sound and add it to the riding of Simcoe. The hon. gentleman, however, afterwards changed his mind with regard to Victoria. The course of hon. gentlemen showed that they had deliberately set about strengthening those of their supporters who had small majorities. The member for South Victoria was elected by a majority of only 36 in the last election. This bill took away a portion of North Victoria and added it to the South, in an effort to increase that majority to 109. What was the confession that the Provincial Secretary now made? That he took an imperfect census which had not given the whole population of Victoria county, and he made that as an excuse for this division. The hon. gentleman had estimated that North Victoria contained 13,700 of population, and only omitted to consider the greater portion of Haliburton, which added some 6,000 to the population. The real population, therefore, of North Victoria would be in this way 19,710, that of South Victoria 20,813. What excuse in the world could he offer for disturbing the representation of these constituencies, in population almost equal? Then what became of the other ground of representation—extent of territory? Why, North Victoria contained six times the area of South Victoria. The hon. gentleman had proceeded upon a false calculation with regard to North Victoria, and made the change he made with the object of strengthening a supporter of the Government in the South. Instead of acknowledging his mistake, and leaving the ridings as they were, the hon. gentleman came down, told the House of his mistake, and then took such a course as would insure at all events the return of one supporter from this county. (Hear, hear.) South Wellington was a riding which returned the sitting member by a slender majority, and they have added to it the township of Pilkington, increasing the Reform majority to 131. But they had in dealing with the county of Wellington been astute, for they had not only made the South riding secure, but they had got rid of the vexatious question of the county town, a difficulty which at one time lost them a representative in this House. They had placed Mount Forest in such a position that it would be impossible to exercise that influence otherwise would in that municipality. As to West York, at the last election the sitting member was returned by a majority of 31, and by taking Parkdale and Brockton away they perhaps turned this majority into a minority. Now the desire seemed to be to make those constituencies where there were majorities under one hundred safe for the Government, and to take away in such constituencies from the Conservative party the hold they had on them. But not content with that they went down to Kingston, which an hon. gentleman on his side of the House had wrested from the enemy on two occasions, and he hoped, notwithstanding this gerrymander, he would wrest it again. (Cheers.) Then the County of Addington returned a member of the Opposition. Hon. gentlemen took three municipalities with a Conservative majority from Addington, reducing this member's to about 80. These townships were added to Frontenac, which was already irredeemably Conservative and so an additional majority of something like 200 was given there. To Kingston they added the township of Kingston and the village of Portsmouth, where there were Reform majorities, in order to enable them to carry the city of Kingston. Fairer treatment might have been expected for the

city in which the leader of the Government received his early training. It might have been expected that the rights which that old city possessed so long would have been left to it instead of its vote and influence being impaired by these changes. (Cheers.) Then, notwithstanding that the hon. member for North Grey (Mr. Creighton) foiled the efforts made to dislodge him in 1875, they were not satisfied. They wanted to drive the hon. gentleman from this House, and they now proposed to take away the township of Sullivan, which gave the hon. gentleman a large majority in the last election, and put it in the East riding upon the flimsy excuse of equalization of population. By this change they actually made the East riding as much out of proportion as North Grey had been. The attempt was plainly to drive the hon. member for North Grey out of the House.

THE INJUSTICE TO THE CITIES.

He desired to call the attention of the House to this question from another point of view, and he hoped the hon. member for Hamilton would follow him. Hon. gentlemen were proposing to extend the franchise in answer, they say, to the just demands of the people. These demands came largely from the centres of population, and while hon. gentlemen proposed on the one hand to extend the right to vote by this bill, they proposed practically to take away and minimize the voice of the urban people in the affairs of this country. It was highly important that the urban population should have its just weight in those affairs. How did the hon. gentleman deal with those cities? These ridings now stood as follows:

London.....	19,746	Hamilton.....	35,961
Kingston.....	11,091	Toronto.....	86,455
Ottawa.....	27,412		

The hon. gentleman gave the unit of representation as about 21,000. From that view, even if they treated the additional member for Toronto as an addition to the voting power of the constituency in that House—which he contended they could not—then they had only seven members representing each 28,426. While the ordinary number is to be 21,000 the hon. gentleman required 7,000 additional in the cities, notwithstanding that they had increased the urban population from 183,625 to 198,983. (Hear, hear.) How differently did the Dominion Government treat these constituencies. The 183,625 who under the present system in Ontario were now entitled only to six members were given by the Dominion nine members—a representation of 50 per cent. greater upon the same population. He said, therefore, that this bill was unfair to the urban constituencies, which held different views and had different interests to be served than the rest of the country. To show the injustice take Wentworth, with a population of about 30,000, with two members, while Hamilton with 35,000 had only one member. When hon. gentlemen were removing inequalities, why did they not deal justly? Toronto, with a population of 86,400, now returned two members, while East and West York, with a combined population of about 35,000, returned two members. So that these inequalities which lay at the root, and were important in principle, hon. gentlemen had not considered at all. The hon. gentleman discussed the question of the dismemberment of county boundaries. That was a matter on which a very pretty speech, with high-sounding observations, might be made, but when they considered the matter practically, they would see that as the population of the province increased it would be necessary, unless they increased the representation in that House, to interfere with county boundaries. Hon. gentlemen talked as if there were no constituencies in the province now composed of portions of different county municipalities. Monck was composed of portions of Welland and Haldimand. Russell was composed of part of Russell and part of Carleton. West Peterboro' was composed of a portion of Peterboro' county and part of West Northumberland. Cardwell was composed of portions of Wellington and Simcoe. Dufferin was the same way. Brockville, Addington, and others were similar examples. So there was already upon the statute book legislation by which they had been compelled to disrupt county boundaries in order to give a uniform representation.

MINORITY REPRESENTATION!!

He wished to call attention to the principle initiated by Mr. Blake, already referred to. Mr. Blake took the position that in large constituencies composed of two or three divisions the principle of minority representation should be recognized by some means or other, and the minority should have a due voice in the affairs of the country. How had the Government carried out this principle?

It would be instructive to see how many three-member constituencies there were in the province, and how the Government had carried out this principle in their bill in giving both parties a representation proportionate to their strength in the country. The three-member constituencies were Grey, Hastings, Huron, Middlesex, Simcoe, Wellington, and York. They contained a population of 472,849. They polled for the Government candidates 35,777 votes, and for the Opposition 31,307, or a majority of about 1,400 for the Government. What was the result so far as the representation of this Chamber was concerned. The Government elected fourteen members and the Opposition only seven. Did the Government propose to remedy this inequality, this injustice, and readjust the representation fairly? (Cheers.) In the same constituencies the Government would, according to the provisions of the bill, elect sixteen members, while the Opposition would elect only five instead of seven. Taking the alteration which would be made in Bruce, which would become a three-riding constituency, they would elect nineteen and the Opposition five. The Government, therefore, instead of carrying out Mr. Blake's principle, had gone in the other direction, and were endeavouring to add greater strength to the voice of the Reformers and diminish the representation of the Conservative party. (Cheers.) He would next consider what had been done with the two-riding constituencies. He thought there were nineteen counties divided into two ridings. The population of these was 841,121. At the last election the Conservative candidates polled 55,873 and the Reformers 60,951. What did they think the representation was? Out of the 38 ridings 12 were Conservative and 26 were Reformers, or more than double the representation, although the difference in the votes was only 5,000. (Cheers.) In order to be fair, he had made a table of the single counties. The population of these was 576,043. The Conservatives polled 44,408 votes and the Reformers 38,523 at the last elections. Seventeen Conservatives were elected and twelve Reformers. The disproportion was in excess of what it ought to have been, but nothing like what it was in the other constituencies. All these facts indicated that the hon. gentlemen opposite did not wish to carry out their professed desire to equalize the representation. (Cheers.) He dared say they would reply to the Opposition, "Whatever you might otherwise have said, you have now no right to make this charge, because the party to which you belong at Ottawa made a redistribution of the constituencies which was more unfair than what we are doing, and therefore your mouth is closed." He submitted that this was no answer. The members and supporters of the Government went about the country complaining that the hands of the Reform party had been tied behind their backs by the result of the unjust legislation of the Ottawa Government. It would be recollected that on the eve of the last general election the hon. member for South Brant arose in his place, and with all the dignity which he possessed, and with his manly brow exposed, he said the Government would go to the people and would trust to their justice, and would not redivide the constituencies. No doubt many of the Conservatives were seduced by this profession. The Government thought they would be sustained by an overwhelming majority, and that it would be unnecessary and not a good party move to make a redistribution. Well, they appealed to the country with the aid of this specious cry. Nevertheless there was a great rattling of the dry bones on the other side, and while by a narrow majority they were enabled to retain their positions by the voice of the people, they had a still slihter tenure. Hence the excuse that the Government ought to have a greater voice in the country than it had, although, as he had pointed out, the division was favourable to the Reform party and unfavourable to the Opposition. He recollected that on one occasion the leader of the Government got up and said he would have liked that in these redistributions there should be some important tribunal outside of politics to adjust matters. (Cheers.) How did the hon. gentleman like the impartial tribunal? (Cheers.) He was afraid that while the hon. gentleman was away in England this work must have gone on in his absence. He expected to see the hon. gentleman rise in his place to say he was not in favour of the bill. (Cheers.) He would for a moment discuss the measure of the Dominion Government. How did it operate in the three-riding constituencies? He did not profess to defend every provision