

Mr. MORRIS said there was no doubt the Act was one in the right direction, but there was nothing original about it. He favoured the object of the Act, but urged its application to the newer districts of the Province, such as Muskoka and Algoma.

The motion for the second reading was then carried.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

Hon. A. M. ROSS moved the second reading of the Bill to make further provision regarding the public health.

Mr. MEREDITH objected to the Provincial Board of Health having power to compel municipalities to appoint a medical health officer.

Hon. A. M. ROSS said the hon. gentleman was setting up a man of straw for the purpose of knocking him down. The power spoken of was only to be exercised and only continue during a formidable epidemic or contagious disease.

Mr. CREIGHTON contended the Bill went too far.

Mr. McMAHON pointed out the need of stringent measures being taken at a moment's notice, and illustrated the fact by the experience gained during the Hungerford epidemic.

Mr. WOOD thought the power conferred on the Provincial Board of Health was too great. He also objected to the clause which, under certain circumstances, empowers the Lieutenant-Governor to postpone a municipal or school election.

Mr. Gibson (Huron) and Mr. McLaughlin supported the measure.

Hon. A. M. ROSS stated that at the present time, although it was considered that the small-pox contagion had been stamped out in Hungerford, there were three cases of smallpox in that neighbourhood, and he had been compelled to request the Provincial Board of Health to take steps to isolate the cases. The township had discharged their health officer, and it was needful that some energetic measures should be taken.

Mr. MERRICK opposed the obligation to pay, the officer's salary being fixed on the local municipality. He would prefer that the appointment of a medical officer should only be made after representations has been made to the Government.

Mr. PRESTON, though he was desirous that the Provincial Board of Health should have ample power, did not want them to have too much. He thought under the old Act they had enough power.

It being six o'clock the Speaker left the chair.

AFTER RECESS.

Mr. FERRIS said by the Health Act they had in the Township of Seymour been able to cope with an epidemic, though it had got considerably under way. It was of considerable necessity that the activity should be on the spot, and the local authorities should have ample powers, but the House should guard so that outside interference as little as possible, and only when the local authorities are not able or unwilling to deal with the crisis. He stated that the Township of Seymour had appointed four health officers and done all that was necessary, and that the Provincial Health officers had taken needless measures, not having been on the ground.

Mr. BAXTER said the powers asked for by the Bill were somewhat large, he must confess, but he thought that if the Provincial Board of Health, which had on it gentlemen high in their profession, desired the power to exercise in extraordinary cases, he should not refuse to grant it.

Mr. WATERS thought the Bill was one which every representative in the House should watch. He thought the Provincial Board of Health desired to ignore the Local Boards of Health.

Hon. J. YOUNG said the hon. gentleman who just sat down would see that it was only in the extraordinary cases to which he referred that this Bill would apply. Then it would not interfere with the rights of the municipalities, because it would apply only where Municipal Councils failed to appoint Local Boards of Health. He would not like to see any undue powers given to the Provincial Board of Health, but there was no danger of this so long as the Board was under the control of a responsible Minister. He thought the House would be negligent in discharging its duty unless it placed in the hands of this Board all the necessary machinery for stamping out epidemics at the earliest possible moment.

The Bill was read the second time.

REDISTRIBUTION BILL.

Hon. A. S. HARDY moved the House into Committee to consider 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.

On the second clause,

Mr. MEREDITH said representation was not provided for the district between Eastern Algoma and the Provincial boundary, and he suggested that it should be attached to Eastern Algoma.

Hon. A. S. HARDY said possibly Mattawa, Ferris, and Springler were entitled to representation, but with the exception of Mattawa and Callander, the population was of a very transient character. Where there were perhaps 400 or 500 people, most of these were employed on the Canadian Pacific Railway, and when the work was finished there, most of them would probably leave. While representation had not been provided now, so soon as it was ascertained next year or the year after what population there

was they would receive it. It was not desirable to attach this district to Algoma just now, because the people there were averse to it.

Mr. MURRAY said he represented a constituency closely identified with that country, and knew that the people were averse to being attached to either Eastern Algoma or Parry Sound, because their interests were not identified with either, and in fact wanted representation for themselves. He had urged the Government to give them representation, and he thought they did not fully understand the importance of the district. He thought the population was much larger and the prospect of development much greater than the Government had any idea of. They were wise, however, in delaying the matter until next year, for the reasons which the Provincial Secretary had given.

On the next clause,

Mr. MEREDITH asked some reason for the division of the county of Bruce. He pointed out that the effect of it would be to give the whole representation to one party. He objected to the geographical division which had been made.

Hon. A. S. HARDY said the division was quite fair, and much fairer than that made in the same county by the Dominion Government, both geographically and politically. The north riding extended all along the lake coast he supposed for 100 miles — for 70 miles at all events. All the Reform townships in the Dominion Act, with the exception of Killross and Elderslie, were hived to the extent of an enormous majority. This Government had simply distributed that majority over the three ridings, and he did not think his hon. friend had anything to complain of.

The clause relating to Bruce was passed.

Mr. MEREDITH thought Huron had been divided to still the votes of the Conservatives.

Mr. GIBSON (Huron) said in 1882 Huron had been gerrymandered three times. He showed up the Dominion Government's tactics to give the Reformers, and said it was no earthly use to talk to the Conservatives about gerrymandering, because they were hardened. The Tories had better hide their diminished heads and say nothing about gerrymander.

Mr. WHITE, while admitting that the Gerrymander Bill of 1882 was one of the worst things they had to contend with during the last election, attempted to defend the Act. He contended that there was no reason for adding to the membership of the House.

On the fourth clause relating to Leeds and Erneville.

Mr. MERRICK reviewed generally the changes made by the Bill, though he did not know that he had complained that the Bill deprived the eastern part of the Province of its just share of the representation.

Hon. T. YOUNG said when he knew that the Government were about to introduce a Redistribution Bill, as a supporter of the Government he was anxious to know what its provisions were, for he would not have supported such a measure as that of the Dominion Bill of 1882. He despaired of ever seeing a party Government bring forward such a fair measure as the one now before the House. He showed that the Dominion Bill had crowded 6,500 Reform majorities in nine constituencies, and that it was one of the most deliberate efforts of gerrymander ever seen in the world; pointing out in detail the political inequalities of the Bill. In this Bill they had not changed one single Conservative majority into a Reform majority, although they might easily have done so if they had wished to. In consideration of the fairness of the measure as compared with friends of gentlemen opposite at Ottawa, he thought that they should be thankful that this Government were so honourable as to show them mercy.

Mr. FRENCH opposed the Bill generally, characterizing it as a gerrymander, as he also characterized the measure of the Dominion Government. He expressed regret that the Government had not stayed their hand with reference to his own constituency.

The clause was passed.

On the 5th clause,

Mr. McKAY asked that the county of Simcoe should be divided into South, Centre, and East. He did not propose any change in the territory, but merely in the name, because there were seven municipalities in Cardwell which were in South Simcoe for municipal purposes.

Hon. C. F. FRASER pointed out that this amendment could be moved when the Bill came up for the third reading.

The clause was carried.

On section 6,

Mr. MORRIS protested against restricting the electors to two votes in Toronto. At a future stage he would feel it his duty to test the sense of the House as to whether it was right to adopt this exploded theory in Toronto, and of keeping it from the rest of the Province.

Mr. GRAY protested against the addition of Parkdale to Toronto for political purposes.

Mr. CLARKE claimed that Toronto was entitled to four members. He objected to the minority representation principle, and particularly because they applied it to Toronto alone.

The clause was passed.

Hon. A. S. HARDY moved the following as section 7:—

The Electoral District of Muskoka and Parry Sound is hereby divided into the Electoral District of Muskoka and the Electoral District of Parry Sound, and each district shall return one member.

(1.) The Electoral District of Muskoka shall consist of all the municipalities and territory comprising the territorial District of Muskoka.

(2.) The Electoral District of Parry Sound shall consist of all the municipalities and territory comprising the Territorial District of Parry Sound.

The clause was carried.

Hon. A. S. HARDY moved as section 8:—

The present ridings of North and South Victoria are hereby abolished, and the said county shall be divided into two ridings, to be called respectively West Victoria and East Victoria, and each riding shall return one member.

(1.) The West Riding shall consist of the townships of Ops, Mariposa, Eldon, Carden, and Dalton, the town of Lindsay, and the village of Woodville.

(2.) The East Riding shall consist of the townships of Emily and Verulam, the villages of Omeamee and Bobcaygeon, and all the said municipalities, including the Provisional County of Haliburton, which heretofore formed the riding of North Victoria, except only the aforesaid municipalities of Dalton, Carden, Eldon, and Woodville.

Mr. FELL did not object to the division of Victoria, so far as the equalization of population was concerned, but said there was no doubt general opposition had followed the example of the Dominion Government in gerrymandering the country for political purposes.

The clause was carried.

Mr. CARNEGIE criticized the Bill with regard to its provisions for area of country in contradistinction with the population.

Mr. McINTYRE pointed out the generosity with which the Opposition had been treated, and showed how the Government might have hived the Tories and created three solid Liberal constituencies.

Mr. WATERS dealt with the Bill on its own merits, and justified the changes made. Taking the 53 constituencies unchanged, there was only one constituency under 15,000, and it was impossible to make any change then and act upon anything like fair principles. The Bill on the face of it did not show any attempt at gerrymandering.

Mr. PRESTON took objection to clause eight relating to Brockville, and criticized the length of the constituency.

Mr. KERR did not think the Bill dealt fairly with the old county of Stormont and the constituency of Cornwall.

The clauses passed to seventeen.

Mr. CREIGHTON made an appeal to restore the Greys to their original condition.

The clause passed.

Mr. CASCADEN thought that the Bill most unmistakably hazarded a constituency which for the last 40 years has returned a supporter of the Reform party.

Hon. A. S. HARDY moved that a new clause declaring the township of Blyth, hitherto belonging to the East Riding of Huron, be added to the West, and that part of Turnberry, hitherto belonging to the West, be added to the East.—Carried.

Mr. GIBSON (Hamilton) still thought that the Government should consider the claim of Hamilton for another member, and announced his intention of moving an amendment on the third reading to effect this object.

Hon. A. S. HARDY moved an amendment providing that the Act shall not go in force until the dissolution of this Parliament, except in Algoma, and that the Electoral District Agricultural Societies will not be affected by the passing of the Act, except in Algoma East and West and the county of Bruce, which may form new Electoral District Agricultural Societies.

The Committee reported progress.

Hon. A. S. HARDY, in reply to Mr. Meredith, stated that though in type the County Court Bill would probably not be brought down this session.

The House adjourned at 11:34.