

that if the leader of the Opposition were ever to occupy the position of leader of the House and enacted a measure dealing with the constituencies so fair as this he would deserve the thanks of the country. As to the previous measure of redistribution, the best reply to the charge that the Government had then dealt unfairly with the Opposition was the fact that they reaped no advantage from it.

Mr. Whitney—The way of the transgressor is hard.

The Attorney-General retorted that this applied very aptly to the Opposition, who had been apparently suffering for their transgressions for the last twenty years, seeing they had been kept all that time in Opposition.

Dr. Ryerson charged that the Government had been trying to coquette with cumulative voting. As regards Ottawa, the Attorney-General had condemned the practices of the Conservatives, but had shown himself willing to avail himself of them when they could be useful. He thought it odd that the Island had been put into East Toronto, but he thought that the reason was that in a former election it had returned a majority for Mr. Bigelow. It evidently had been intended to reduce the Conservative majority in East Toronto.

Mr. Clarke contended that the Island should be in South Toronto.

Mr. Meredith also contended that the Island, as lying almost wholly south of South Toronto, should be in it.

Mr. White charged the Government with wanting to steal 20 or 30 votes from the Conservatives in South Toronto. He charged the Government with gerrymandering in various parts of the country, specifying Mr. Balfour's constituency as an instance of such an unfair division. Mr. Balfour was the member for Tilbury Township, he said, and not for South Essex.

Mr. Balfour replied to Mr. White, showing by an analysis of the votes of the various portions of his riding that the adjustment had not especially helped him.

Hon. Mr. Gibson stated that he had never heard, nor did he know, whether the Island was Liberal or Conservative. It had formerly been geographically a part of East Toronto, and, furthermore, South Toronto was a very large constituency already, and East Toronto was a very small constituency. It was evidently a good bill if the Opposition had to range as far as Essex in order to object.

The bill was then proceeded with through committee. Mr. Harty called attention to the arrangement in Kingston whereby the Township of Kingston has been detached from Frontenac and put into the electoral district of Kingston. There had been great dissatisfaction in the district with the arrangement, he said, and he had pledged himself if there was any opportunity afforded him to try to get it rectified. He had been asked at every meeting in the last election to get the change made, and the people were very urgent that it should be effected. There was no political end for him to be gained, for the Township of Kingston had given him a majority of 128, and the change would lessen his chances of re-election. The change would act beneficially in that whereas the electoral district known as the City of Kingston has 10,000 inhabitants more than Frontenac has, the disparity would by this be reduced to 2,000. The Village of Portsmouth had been added to Kingston at the same time as the township had been, but he proposed that it be retained in the district of Kingston, as it was practically a suburb and would some day be annexed to it. Besides, Portsmouth had never objected to the union, while the township always had. He therefore moved that the Township of Kingston be detached from the electoral district of Kingston and added to the riding of Frontenac.

Hon. Mr. Gibson said he knew of no objection to the amendment. The people affected by the change appeared to wish for it, as the Township of Kingston had specially asked for it, and though the County of Frontenac had not formally asked for it, yet the name of the Warden, who is a Conservative, appeared in the petition signed by ratepayers of Kingston, and he took that as a proof that the county was aware of what was being done and that it was not being sprung on any way.

Mr. Meredith—The member for Frontenac is not aware of it.

Mr. Harty—He is aware of it.

Hon. Mr. Gibson replied that the Government did not care a button whether the change was made or not; it was a matter of the convenience or choice of the municipalities concerned and no political purpose was to be served.

Mr. Meredith said it was an outrage that such a proposition should be introduced at such a stage of the session. No information had been given of any intention to suggest this amendment, and the member for Frontenac (Mr. Hugh Smith) was not aware that it was about to be tried. The township had been brought into the city in order to swamp Mr. Metcalfe, and now the Government was try-

ing to reverse their policy for some reason of their own.

Hon. Mr. Hardy said that until recently the township had not been Reform, but Conservative. When it had been put into the city the city had had but 14,000 population, and now it had 24,000 and was larger than the county instead of smaller. He protested against Mr. Meredith's language, eliciting from the leader of the Opposition the declaration that he would use what language he chose.

Hon. Mr. Gibson said that there had been no intention of the amendment being smuggled through. He had understood that Mr. Hugh Smith would second the amendment, and it had practically been treated as a consent motion.

Mr. Meacham said that the Township and the Village of Portsmouth had been Reform and had been put into Kingston to swamp Mr. Metcalfe, but that the township had turned Conservative through the indignation of the inhabitants. Now the Government was trying to put the township back into the county.

Mr. Meredith said that it was a trick to get the Conservatives to oppose what the inhabitants of the county wished, and so to make them unpopular in the township.

Mr. Tait remarked that Mr. Meredith should not object to the people knowing what stand he had taken.

The amendment was allowed to stand over till the afternoon.

Hon. Mr. Gibson then introduced an amendment providing for the rearrangement of polling subdivisions, owing to the change of constituencies. This caused no serious discussion. It was then 1 o'clock and the House rose.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

On the Speaker taking the chair at 3 o'clock, Mr. Balfour's street railway bill was taken up and discussed. Mr. Meredith devoted some time to the consideration of the amendment which Mr. Balfour had moved in the morning, and, while not assuming any responsibility, suggested a number of emendations in it. The amendment provided that nothing in the bill should injuriously affect any agreement heretofore made by any railway company, the Metropolitan Railway Company being specially mentioned, nor should it validate any agreements made by any company; its effect upon agreements already made thus being neutral. Mr. Meredith suggested several verbal changes which would more clearly explain the intention of the House that no company was to be affected by the legislation, but was still dubious as to whether it might not turn out that the bill would prove injurious to some other company of which the House knew nothing. He was anxious that it be dropped until next session, and this was agreed to, after a suggestion by the Attorney-General that the House drop the bill for the year on the understanding that it should be taken up next year and that the House would not be bound to respect any agreement made by any company between now and then which would be invalid were the present bill enacted.

On this understanding Mr. Balfour withdrew the bill.

The House then went into committee again on the registration act. Various minor amendments and changes in phraseology were suggested across the floor of the House, and the bill was finally reported about 5 o'clock.

Immediately after the reporting of the registration bill the Attorney-General introduced a short bill respecting the Clerk of the Peace of the County of Carleton. He explained that there had been an unavoidable delay in the appointment of a successor to the late Clerk of the Peace, and that in the interim the son of the late occupant of the office, Mr. W. A. D. Lees, had discharged the duties pertaining to it with much accuracy. It had occurred to him that it might be objected that his acts as Clerk of the Peace were irregular, and to guard against that he introduced this bill, stating that all official acts performed by Mr. Lees were perfectly regular.

Mr. Meredith assented, after a few remarks as to the inadvisability of keeping these offices open so long.

The Attorney-General said it would be filled in a few days.

Mr. Meredith—What does that mean?

The Attorney-General—In a few days as is really practicable.

Mr. Meredith—Compatible with party emergencies.

The Attorney-General—Compatible with the public interest.

#### THE REDISTRIBUTION BILL.

The redistribution bill was then taken again in committee. Mr. Meredith protested again against the putting of Kingston Township into the division of Kingston, in the absence of the member for Frontenac. He did not see why Portsmouth Village should not be put back into Frontenac also, if the township was. Mr. Harty said there was little doubt but that Portsmouth would eventually become a portion of the City of Kingston.