

This a Principal Feature of Redistribution Bill of Mr. Whitney.

RESULTS SHOWN IN TWO COUNTIES

When Bill Comes Before House There Will be a Lively Argument.

What the Census Shows—Political
Greed Gratified, Says Mr. Ross—
Statistics Unfold Many of Schemes
of Conservative Party in Dividing
Up the Province—East Hastings,
West Northumberland and East
York Affected Considerably—
Plenty of Room For Discussion.

The more Liberal members of the Legislature look into the redistribution proposals of Mr. Whitney the more it becomes apparent that the measure as it now stands is by no means as fair as some remarks of the Premier would have led the Province to believe. Statistics are daily being collected, and by the time the bill comes before the House the Opposition should be enabled to enliven considerably a session which has so far been exceptionally devoid of much spirited argument. Aside from the scheme of giving Toronto doubled representation, the division of Middlesex and Huron will provide the great bone of contention. "The gratification of political greed" is the way Mr. Duncan Ross (West Middlesex) styles the method adopted in his county. While the old ridings in Middlesex presented very little difference in the total population of each, the new ridings are out of all proportion, and the census returns unmistakably show the hand of the party manipulator. Besides this, Mr. Ross has been actually thrown out of the riding he now represents. Mr. Thomas Turnbull, who was nominated by the Liberals in the North, now finds himself living in West Middlesex. Such a scheme is practically a duplicate of that adopted in Huron, where two Liberal candidates are placed in the one riding. East Hastings, West Northumberland and East York are other ridings which have been patched up to the benefit of the Whitney followers.

Some Political Greed.

"The result attained in Middlesex is clearly for the gratification of political greed," said Mr. Duncan Ross (West Middlesex) yesterday. "It arises from political cowardice, because it was pretty certain that had the ridings remained as they were Mr. Thomas Turnbull would have defeated Mr. Hodgins, the present member in the North. If the vote went the same as it did in 1905 Mr. Hodgins is now assured of a majority of over three hundred."

Mr. Ross showed by the census returns what the carving process has accomplished. According to the municipal statistics of 1906, West Middlesex had a population of 14,755, and North Middlesex a population of 14,252. This difference was 503. Under the new arrangement the West riding will have a population of 13,104, and the North 15,903, a difference of 2,799; so that under the redistribution the disparity between the two ridings is increased by over 2,200. Practically the same conclusion may be arrived at, by the census of 1901. West Middlesex then had a population of 18,080, and by that census the population now is 16,280; and the North then had a population of 16,419, while now it is 18,219. Prior to the redistribution the disparity in the two ridings was 1,661, and now it is 1,939. According to the census of 1901, East Middlesex had a

population of 23,558, which is far larger than either of the other two ridings.

Out of Their Ridings.

It may also be mentioned that two Liberal candidates have been thrown out of their ridings by the manipulations of the Whitney Government. Mr. Ross, who lives in Strathroy, represents the West riding at present, but now he is living in the North riding. Mr. Turnbull, who was nominated for the North, lives in Lobo township, which has been placed in the West.

There is a big Conservative majority in North Hastings; at least Mr. Pearce obtained a plurality of 1,531 there last election. It was safe to take a township from that riding and add it to another, and the township of Huntingdon has been selected, which gave Mr. Pearce 162 majority over Mr. Cornell (Liberal). This township is added to East Hastings. Major Rathbun (Independent) now represents East Hastings, but in the Dominion contest of 1904 East Hastings gave a Liberal majority of 57, so that the Conservative chances with the votes of Huntingdon added appear quite as Premier Whitney and his colleagues would desire.

Situation in Brant.

Not a great deal of difference has been made in Brant county by the transfer of Burford township from the South riding to the North. Burford township gave a majority of five for Mr. T. H. Preston (Liberal) in 1905. The Conservative majority in North Brant at last election was 65.

More Manipulation.

The same plan as was adopted in Hastings has been worked in West Peterboro' and West Northumberland. Monaghan township has been taken from West Peterboro' and added to West Northumberland. In the former riding Mr. Bradburn (Conservative) had a majority at last election of 1,174, and Monaghan township with its ninety Conservative majority makes little difference to him. At last election Mr. Clarke (Liberal) had a majority of 270 in West Northumberland, and now Monaghan township with its Conservative majority has been tacked onto him. According to Mr. Clarke there is no need to worry over the consequences, however.

The Conservative riding of East Peterboro' has been deprived of the votes in Lakefield village, which gave a Conservative majority of 62. Lakefield has been added to East Peterboro', where there was a Liberal majority of over 100 last election.

Harder for Mr. Curry.

With the vote of 1905 as the basis, the chances of Mr. J. W. Curry, K. C., as the Liberal candidate in East York have been militated against. For instance, North Toronto has been shifted from West to East York, and North Toronto gave 105 Conservative majority in 1905. Mr. McCowan (Conservative) was elected by a majority of 429 in East York last election. With a Conservative majority of over 400, it is not thought in Government circles that West York is endangered. Stouffville has been added to North York, and since this town has polled a Conservative majority it is thought to better the chances of Mr. T. H. Lennox in the North.

Fixing Up Brockville.

Though Mr. A. E. Donovan has been loudly heralded as "the man who redeemed Brockville," there appears to have been an effort to make his seat safe in the future. There has been added to the former riding Kitley, which gave a Conservative majority of 141 in 1905, and South Elmsley, which also gave a Conservative majority of fifteen, and there has been taken from the riding Front of Yonge and Escott, which went Liberal by 89. These changes alone make a Conservative gain of 245 votes. In view of Mr. Whitney's recently expressed opinion of Brockville, little else was expected. In the recent bye-election Mr. Donovan's official majority was 325.

The Figures in Huron.

So sweeping have been the changes in Huron that the entire story of redistribution can hardly be told by figures. The entire county has been shaken up, and all existing organizations shattered. To West Huron have been added the following municipalities with their 1905 majorities: Howick, Conservative, 173; Morris, Liberal, 6; Turnberry, Conservative, 34; Wroxeter, Liberal, 22. These four alone show a Conservative majority of 179. On the other hand, the West riding loses as follows: Colborne, Liberal, 54; Goderich, Conservative, 20; Clinton, Liberal, 35. This makes a Liberal majority of 69 taken from the West riding,

so that all in all, with the figures of 1905, West Huron has a safe Conservative majority. Though the West appears strongly Conservative, the East is more strongly Liberal, or, in other words, a hive. Besides the municipalities taken away, which were Conservative, and which have been mentioned, there are added: Tuckersmith, Liberal, 210; Colborne, Liberal, 54; Goderich, Conservative, 20; Seaforth, Liberal, 14, and Clinton, Liberal, 35. The figures of last election give a Liberal seat in East Huron by over 600 majority.

Huron County Cut Up.

Clinton, March 25.—(Special.)—To look at the map of Huron county it is difficult to explain why Goderich township should be in South Huron and Tuckersmith in Centre, in view of what Mr. Whitney says: "That the divisions are not being made for party purposes." The fact that the one gives a large Conservative majority and the other an equally large Liberal vote no doubt accounts for the division as it has been made. By all means let the divisions be fair. It is ridiculous to say that Goderich town should be in the Centre riding and Goderich township in the South. It looks as though it would be a toss-up to say whether Clinton and Seaforth should be in the Centre or South, or whether Brussels should be in the Centre or North. The North division seems to meet with great favor.

Party Advantage the Motive.

Goderich, March 25.—(Special.)—The advices received through the press this morning of the proposed gerrymander of the three ridings of Huron county by the Whitney Government have aroused an indignant protest among the Liberals of this district. The rounding up of the Liberal divisions into one riding, to be known as Centre Huron, has also caused not a little dissatisfaction to some of the local Conservatives, who for the past few months have been earnestly marshalling their party workers. So far as Centre Huron presents itself to the Liberals in this riding a complication arises, in that two Liberal candidates have already been nominated for the same riding. At a recent convention Mr. Wm. Proudfoot, K.C., Goderich, was nominated to contest West Huron, while at a similar convention held at Brussels Mr. W. H. Kerr was chosen to carry the Liberal standard for E. Huron. The gerrymander now throws these two prominent Liberals into the same riding. West Huron has always been considered a strong Liberal riding, and the Whitney Government, realizing that it would be more advantageous to them, have literally butchered the three ridings by deliberately cutting out the Conservative polling strongholds of old West Huron and interchanging them with Liberal slices from the other Hurons, to concentrate their enemies in one riding. The remaining divisions of the county have been so dexterously manipulated as to insure the election of a Conservative in each riding by an overwhelming majority. Roughly speaking, South Huron will return Mr. Harry Eilber, the present Conservative M.P.P., by over 700 majority, whereas if the constituency had been left as it was Mr. Jacob Kellerman would have every prospect of victoriously carrying the Liberal standard.

It is felt by the Liberals that Mr. Eilber has dictated this gerrymander to save himself by confining his territory to a strip running from Goderich to the southern part of the county, about 35 miles in length and only ten or twelve miles in width. As to the proposed constituency of North Huron, amazing lines have been drawn to have the long-established Conservative strongholds massed together. Great dissatisfaction has been expressed that Mr. Whitney should submit to such an unjust influence, which has undoubtedly been brought to bear, in carving the county into such absurdly proportioned subdivisions merely to accomplish a party advantage.