

bution is after a census has been taken, when the figures are fresh," added Mr. MacKay, before he again referred to the policy of the Conservatives in 1902. The bill of the member for South Grey had provided that three high court Judges should do the delimitation of the constituencies. Even the present Premier had once favored such a manner of delimitation, and he had great confidence that perhaps the Premier would return to that stand.

"We observe that this Government is not following the English precedent; it is not even following its own precedent," he said, and added that the Government was now "in the land of fulfillment and getting away from the land of promise, even turning away back on the promise of 1902."

Not An Honest Attempt.

"Let us see," said Mr. MacKay, "if this bill is an honest attempt to do what the Premier promised, whether an honest attempt has been made to carry out the professions he made when introducing it. I have here the Premier's statement with reference to the principles which were to be followed, quoted in *The Globe*, a paper, by the way, which he is fond of quoting from, and said that he is willing to accept its statements in any discussion. He then said, on March 18: 'It is proposed that county boundaries shall be followed so far as possible, and it is desired that there should be an equalization of the population of the different ridings.'"

Proceeding, Mr. MacKay said that some of the boundary lines remained as they were in 1885, and the reason for the alteration which was now proposed was obvious. Let the constituencies of Peel and Cardwell be considered. They were constituencies where the county boundaries were not considered. In the 1901 census Cardwell had a population of 18,528. Take off Allandale, which had gone out by virtue of a special act and been added to Simcoe, leaving 17,473. The population of Peel was 18,032, or 559 more than Cardwell, from which the townships of Albion and Bolton had been removed, and by the bill placed in their own county. County boundaries were observed there, but not in other cases. What was the result? Taking off Albion, with 2,741, and Bolton, with 792, from Cardwell, and a constituency was left with a population of only 14,039, while Peel had 21,475.

An Obvious Reason.

"I want to ask any honest man," said Mr. MacKay, "any man who pretends to be honest, if that is equalizing the constituencies? Why are two municipalities taken from the smaller and given to the greater? How can that be honestly defined as honestly endeavoring to equalize the population? Peel was 3 per cent. more than Cardwell, and now under these proposals it will be 50 per cent. From that which hath not, in so far as population is concerned, is taken about half that it hath. The reason is obvious. Right in the front row on this side of the House sits Mr. John Smith, the only man, it is supposed, who can hold Peel. This change turns over 150 Conservative votes, the battle-axe will fall on him, and that is the reason of the alteration.

"I would like," proceeded Mr. MacKay, "the people of Ontario to perceive exactly what this means. I am willing that the people of the Province should judge of the boast which comes so often from the Premier: 'Honest enough to be bold and bold enough to be honest.'"

Not Backing Out.

Dealing with Brockville, Mr. MacKay said that the riding had not been touched since 1885. "I hold no brief for the old Government."

Premier Whitney—You are prepared to back out.

Mr. MacKay—I am not backing out. I am prepared to change my opinion when my opinion of yesterday is wrong. In order to show the Premier that his opinion is wrong I want to say that of what he lately called a scarified reminiscence of what a decent riding should be, if the opinion of a sane, intelligent man were asked, he would say that the present riding is more compact than the proposed one.

The present riding of Brockville, Mr. MacKay said, had a population of 18,322 and Leeds 19,254, a difference of only 952. With such a small difference some good reason should be given why the proposed unshapely riding should be produced.

"It looks," said Mr. MacKay, holding up a plan, "like two elevators placed one on the top of the other, and a side blown out of each. I take the old riding, and I know nothing in practical politics which is more compact, while the new riding is this jumbled, zigzag affair."

Hon. A. J. Matheson—That is upside down.

Mr. MacKay—It doesn't matter which way you hold it, it is not shapely.

Equalizing Population.

Proceeding, he said that the Legislature had been told that the redistribution was necessary in order to equalize the population of constituencies. He had shown in reference to Peel and Cardwell that there was only a difference of 559, and between Brockville and Leeds something like a thousand. Now let them take the other side of the picture. Lambton West had a population of 34,808, Lambton East 22,470, a difference of about 12,000.

"And," said the Opposition leader, "they are left as they are by this measure, which I am not using too strong language in calling hollow and hypocritical." Proceeding, Mr. Mac-

Kay pointed out that in the population of the Kents there was a difference of 10,296, between East and West Elgin 7,784, between Ontario North and South 4,627, and yet no change made. "It is only when there is a difference of 500 or a thousand that change is necessary. Now we all know how hollow this talk about it being necessary is. Take North Oxford, with 26,644, South Oxford with 22,760, a difference of 3,884, and there is no change; take North Perth, with 29,253, and South Perth with 20,620, a difference of 8,633, and there is no change; but get John Smith's constituency, where the Tory party was defeated, and it is necessary to make a change. We might as well have been told the plain facts and the truth. North Lanark has a population of 18,008, South Lanark 15,428, a difference of 2,580, but no change is made. The Provincial Treasurer has a higher ideal, and when he is asked to give up a township, stands up and says, 'What we have we'll hold.'"

Hon. A. J. Matheson—The hon. gentleman is only 6,000 out in his figures.

Mr. MacKay—I give the figures as they were given me from the census of 1901.

Mr. Matheson explained that Smith's Falls had been placed in South Lanark for Dominion purposes since the last census.

Making Safe Seats.

Mr. MacKay, proceeding, pointed out that North Hastings had a population of 24,088, West Hastings 17,772, a difference of 6,216; Wellington South 21,162, East Wellington 17,192, a difference of 3,970, but no change had been made. Let them take the case of the Middlesexes, all within county boundaries, and where equalization of population could have been the only reasonable excuse for change. East Middlesex, according to the census of 1901, had a population of 21,625; West, 18,080, and North, 16,412.

"If," he said, "any honest attempt were being made to equalize the population of these constituencies would you not reduce the largest? I find, however, notwithstanding the boast that this bill is for the equalization of population, that East Middlesex, with 26,825, or more than 4,000 more than the next, is left alone, and a little thimble-rigging done with the two smaller constituencies to bring about certain results and make them safe Conservative seats." (Opposition cheers.)

Passing on, Mr. MacKay said that in reference to the Hurons the remark had been made that there was "nothing like them in the heavens above, the earth beneath, or the waters under the earth"; but the proposal in regard to Toronto was the most indefensible in the bill.

The Case of Toronto.

"If it is logical," he said, "to give Toronto eight members, give the city eight constituencies. I want to know what the men of the towns and townships will say to this. They will have one vote and one representative, while the Toronto elector will have two votes and two representatives."

The object of "this wonderful piece of political thimble-rigging" was plain. Nobody who was not certified by the good old Conservative party was to have a chance. There was to be no opportunity for minority representation; and he would like to know what the Labor member thought of that.

"The Labor men were getting out a candidate; there was an independent movement in the Conservative party, and so a club had to be used, and it struck Labor on the head," he added.

If it were desirable, he contended, that Toronto should have eight members, it would be easy to divide the city into eight constituencies, although he contended no change was necessary. Situated as Toronto was, the people had no difficulty in making their wishes known to the Government. He dared to say that no deputation had been received from the City Council or Board of Trade asking for increased represen-

tation, but that the application came from the party, and that even in its ranks would be found many who objected to "this fall fair faking and pea-under-a-shell rigging."

In conclusion Mr. MacKay said that everything under this bill had been done to make the fight an unfair one and to make it lop-sided. At present the Conservatives had a majority of 44, but according to the massed vote there was only a majority of ten.

Defence of Toronto.

Mr. McNaught thought it would be conceded by every fair-minded man that it was the intention of the Government to give the Province a square deal. The city of Toronto at the present time had a population of over 300,000, and he reminded the House that an old Liberal cry was "representation according to population." There was no reason, he claimed, why Toronto should not be represented in both Federal and Provincial Houses according to population. If Toronto were given six members, which the Liberal leader had favored, said Mr. McNaught, every man would only be given about one-third of a vote according to representation to population. He believed that for the last twenty years the dice had been loaded against the Conservative side of the House.

The Honesty Habit.

Mr. Sam Clarke (Northumberland) was rather surprised that the member for North Toronto could not give more reasons why the Premier and the Government were right.

"I love an honest man," he said. "I think he is the noblest work of God. A thing I don't like is a man who is honest two-thirds of the time, but one-third of the time goes wrong, and then swears he is honest. This is one of the weaknesses of the Premier of this House and this Province. I say this in all seriousness, because he is in the habit of saying he is honest."

Continuing, he drew attention to the sitting members for Toronto. The member for West Toronto was Speaker, the member for South Toronto was Attorney-General, the member for North Toronto was a Hydro-electric Commissioner, and the member for East Toronto was Minister of Education.

"Imagine four Toronto members having the finest positions and the greatest honors," he said. "What is the balance of the Province getting? Surely the balance of this Province is entitled to something as well as the city of Toronto." (Cheers.)

Some Plain Talk.

"Taking what does not belong to you, that is stealing in plain English," was another applauded observation of Mr. Clarke.

Proceeding, he referred to the special Redistribution Committee, of which he was a member. It reminded him of that song, "Come into my parlor said the spider to the fly." He submitted that it was as fair to change fifty or sixty ridings as it was to change fifteen or so on the census of 1901. It was not fair to change a few which, he said, the Government had culled to suit their purposes. The Ross Administration and that of Premier Hardy always had to fight for their majorities, which were small. "They never were cowards enough to go out and butcher up this country," he added.

The Real Result.

The Premier had said that the Liberal members of the committee had not said anything during the first two meetings, but Mr. Clarke intimated to the House that there was perfect unanimity on the Government side of the House. In the committee Mr. Clarke said the Premier was "boss of the job." The Liberal members of the committee, he said, should have had from a week to two weeks to consider these changes, while the Government had perhaps a year to think over them.

"The Premier cannot show me," said Mr. Clarke, "one single gain to the Liberal party of Ontario in all the changes that he has made in this Province. I wish to say, on the other hand, that he has secured and made safe from eight to twelve ridings in his own behalf, when we had possessed them or had a better chance than he had of carrying them."

He reviewed the changes in Leeds, Brockville, Hastings, West Northumberland and West Peterboro', and added that the Government were "taking little drafts here and there to make themselves safe for next election." He supposed that next session they would have to speak to the members from Toronto as "Label A," or he even suggested putting bells on them. Passing reference was made by Mr. Clarke to Middlesex, Huron and Essex, and he said he did not think the people would