

stand for such unfairness.

The Independent Stand.

Major Rathbun (Independent), East Hastings, did not think the people in the rural ridings would consider favorably the doubling up in Toronto. He was quite at a loss to know why his riding was considered at all in the redistribution. Though perhaps his riding had been made better from a geographical standpoint, there were regular ridings in the Province which were made irregular. He pointed out that East and West Hastings had each a population of about 17,000 people, while the North had 25,000 people. In the new arrangement the East had 20,000 people, the West 17,000, and the North 22,000, putting the entire county out of balance. He could not see why a township giving a majority of 162 Conservatives should be thrown into a riding which last election gave the largest number of votes of any riding in the county. If the bill went through he claimed it would arrogate all the power of Hastings and Prince Edward to the bosses, a small group of men living in Belleville.

Wants Riding Back.

At the evening session the debate on the redistribution bill was resumed by Mr. Duff (West Simcoe), who said that had the Government desired they could have created many safe seats for Conservatives. He hoped that before the bill passed its third reading Cardwell would be wiped out and the old riding of South Simcoe reappear.

Was Mutilated.

Col. Atkinson (North Norfolk) said that if Brockville riding was scarified before the change Huron county was mutilated. The member for West Middlesex (Mr. Ross), as well as the member for Peel (Mr. Smith), had both been gerrymandered. The Minister of Public Works had secured a Liberal municipality, which had been taken from Mr. Auld in South Essex, but he would have trouble in handling it. Regarding Toronto, the speaker said his "worst expectation" had been surpassed. How were the agriculturists going to be represented in the Legislature? he asked, and he added that he did not think they would have any representation at all. In a city a man could represent 100,000 people easier than 20,000 in the rural districts. He wanted to know what the agriculturists would say to the large representation of Toronto, where a member would represent one and three-quarter square miles, though in the rural districts a member represented hundreds of square miles.

"If you link up votes in Toronto, why did you take the linking away from Ottawa?" he asked. Continuing, Col. Atkinson said that the Premier must have listened too much to the political heelers of the back concessions. The Premier had been weak enough to be led.

Going Whitneywards.

Mr. Pratt (South Norfolk) said the dual representation in Ottawa gave the best reason for such a course in Toronto. Before the redistribution bill had come down the member for East Huron had taken "good care to get from under." The only reason for such a course of action was because the country was going "Whitneywards." Notwithstanding the "lip-loyalty" of Liberals, he noticed Opposition members were dropping out. He did not think any rural riding would object to Toronto getting its share of representation.

Against Precedents.

Mr. Bowman (North Bruce) said the Opposition claimed that the Premier had departed from all recognized customs which should govern a matter of this kind. Had the Liberals at Ottawa adopted the methods of Mr. Whitney they would immediately have taken steps to undo the iniquitous gerrymander of 1882, but they had waited until a census had been taken. In Ontario at present the Government were dealing with a census eight years old. There was absolutely no sound excuse for the Government dealing with the question in old Ontario at the present time.

The special committee business, Mr. Bowman said, was a farce.

"We attended those meetings day after day, but even had we had any suggestions to make they would not have been considered for a moment. The whole thing was cut-and-dried before the minority representation was thought of."

The principle of county boundaries, he said, had been entirely lost sight of in reference to Carleton and Russell. Party advantage, and party advantage alone, had been thought of. The principle of equalization of population,

he said, had been absolutely thrown to the winds, and he gave as his proof the divisions in Peel, Cardwell and Essex.

In his opinion the changes in the county of Middlesex were the most outrageous of all. In every instance the changes were made purely and simply for party advantage. The Government were afraid to trust the people who sent them to the House with a majority of 40, and consequently had attempted the most subtle gerrymander ever attempted in Canada.

Dodged the Question.

Mr. Hoyle (North Ontario) was making allegations against the last redistribution by the Dominion Government, when Mr. Bowman asked him if it was not a fact that as a result of the deliberations of the committee at Ottawa a unanimous report was brought in.

Mr. Hoyle evaded the question, saying that Victoria county had protested then and protested to-day. He was further asked to answer the question, and retorted that the Opposition got no justice from the Dominion Government, and the action there was a travesty of justice. In 1874 the Liberals gerrymandered thirty counties, he claimed, and in 1885 forty more.

The debate was adjourned by Mr. Hislop (East Huron).