

Mr. MacKay—Surely there ought to be some public demand for it before it is introduced here.

Proceeding, Mr. MacKay said that he did not wish to give a silent vote on this matter. He pointed out that in Great Britain Governments had come and gone many times since the last redistribution of constituencies, and although there was at present in the British House of Commons a majority of about 300, it only represented a change of five per cent. of the votes. The last Provincial Government had a majority of three. The present Government had a majority of forty on the same constituencies, so that there was absolutely no justification for change. "If we give Toronto," said Mr. MacKay, "six representatives, we can justify it as between the cities of Ontario, and not argue from the rural standpoint at all."

Proceeding, he contended that if change were to be made let the representatives be returned by the whole city in the same manner as the Controllers were elected.

The amendment was lost on a party division, Mr. Studholme voting with the Opposition, by 48 to 19.

The Claims of Essex.

Mr. John Auld (South Essex) moved another amendment to give Essex and Kent each three members. In supporting his amendment Mr. Auld said it was an injustice to have Kent and Essex left in the shape they were when other ridings were being changed. He was prepared to say Kent and Essex, the latter particularly, were not receiving fair play from the Government. In Essex there were about 60,000 people, and in view of that the county was certainly entitled to three members. The present was the proper time to readjust this county, and it was not honest to leave it as it was. He was not afraid to make a comparison with any county in the Province.

"If it is a good thing for the city of Toronto to have four new members, it is right to give Essex and Kent each three members. We are entitled to it," he said.

Mr. Bowyer (East Kent) said this was the first time he had ever heard of Essex and Kent desiring three members each. He believed that at next redistribution they would rather ask that counties having three members be reduced to two.

Not So Popular Now.

Mr. A. B. McCoig (West Kent) asked if Kent and Essex could get along with two members why should there be more members for Toronto? He pointed out that North Essex had now a larger population than the South riding, yet the Government were adding on a township to the North riding. He expressed the opinion that the representation of the Province could be cut down by ten or fifteen. He pointed out that at the last election Bruce county had polled 11,659 votes for three members, while Kent had polled 13,351 for two members. Mr. McCoig made a reference to the number of votes polled by the Provincial Treasurer.

Hon. Mr. Matheson—The Provincial Treasurer polled about 1,000 votes less than usual.

Mr. McCoig—I am sorry the hon. gentleman was so unpopular in his own riding.

The amendment was declared to be lost on division.

Was Voted Down.

Mr. Clarke (Northumberland) moved another amendment:

"The electoral district of Brockville shall consist of the town of Brockville, the township of Elizabethtown, the township called Front of Yonge, the township called Rear of Yonge and Escott, the township called Front of Escott and the village of Athens."

Arguing for his amendment, Mr. Clarke said that about 200 Conservative votes had been added to Brockville. It was only for political gain that the change was made, because the map would not show it. Referring to Peel, Mr. Clarke said that Albion had been taken from that county at the time of confederation. This statement caused quite a flutter of excitement in the Government ranks, and in a minute's warm debate no person dared dispute Mr. Clarke's facts. With such a majority, he claimed, the Government could not have much confidence in themselves at the next election, in view of the redistribution.

The amendment was lost.

The Axe Falls Again.

Mr. C. M. Bowman (North Bruce) moved: "The county of Peel shall consist of the townships of Caledon, Chinguacousy, Toronto and the Gore of Toronto, the town of Brampton and the village of Streetsville."

He said that if the principle of county boundaries had been maintained why had not Gloucester and Osgoode been taken from Russell and placed in Carleton? He also affirmed the statement that Albion had been placed in Cardwell at the time of confederation. He thought it strange that a party with such a majority going to the country in a few weeks should inflict such a subtle gerrymander. To his mind it denoted a feeling almost akin to panic among Conservatives.

Mr. Whitney claimed that Albion most certainly belonged to Peel, because it had to pay its county rates there. Liberals, he said, had said their party had not redistributed the Province for twenty years.

"They didn't have room for a further redistribution of the Province," he said.

Hon. Mr. MacKay said that the Premier was very much making political ridings, and it was not fair that he should, for purposes of comparison, refer to judicial districts. For Federal purposes Albion was in Peel, but in Dominion ridings counties were really followed and not merely talked about.

Was All Wrong.

Mr. Donovan (Brockville) said that if he were Premier he would take the entire responsibility for any redistribution, and would not let any committee have anything to do with it. Then he went on to say that The Globe's map of Brockville was all wrong because it was published upside down. He was sure that the whole of the Province would be satisfied with what had been done.

The amendment was lost, and Mr. D. C. Ross (West Middlesex) moved as a further amendment that: "North Middlesex shall consist of the townships of Biddulph, McGillivray, East Williams, West Williams, Adelaide and Lobo, the town of Parkhill and the villages of Lucan and Ailsa Craig.

"West Middlesex shall consist of the townships of Caradoc, Delaware, Metcalfe, Mosa and Ekfrid, the town of Strathroy and the villages of Glencoe, Newberry and Wardsville.

"East Middlesex shall consist of the townships of London, Westminster, North Dorchester and West Nissouri."

Mr. Ross said that his reason for moving the amendment was because in dealing with Middlesex the Premier had departed from all his declared principles. As he had pointed out before, there had been no attempt to equalize the population of the different ridings. As a matter of fact the disparity had been increased. The promises of the Premier had looked very fair, but they were like the apples of Sodom, fair to look upon, but as bitter ashes to the taste. The Government had sown the wind and would reap the whirlwind.

Mr. Ross' amendment was lost, and Mr. A. Hislop (East Huron) followed with another amendment to the effect that the Huron ridings should not be altered. As the ridings existed they were more compact than they would be under the bill.

Mr. Eilber (South Huron) claimed that the redistribution had done much to equalize the population of the ridings. The amendment was lost.

Mr. Auld (S. Essex) had another motion, which would leave the ridings as they were. He denied the Premier's statement that Essex had been divided to give a safe seat for the late Mr. Balfour. The Premier had stated that he (Mr. Auld) was wobbling, but he stated the Premier could not "bulldoze" any member on the Liberal side of the House. The amendment was lost.

Similarly motions by Mr. May and Mr. McDougal, the Ottawa representatives, objecting to the Government's proposals, were voted down.

About Doukhobors.

The order respecting an amendment to the municipal act by Hon. Mr. Hanna was announced, but the Provincial Secretary drew the attention of the House to another matter. He first read a telegram from the Sheriff at Port Arthur as follows:—

"Fort William Police Magistrate has committed ten male Doukhobors to Central Prison, nine females to Mercer Reformatory. They are in jail here. We have no room for them. Fifty-three other prisoners here now. There are fifty-seven other Doukhobors at Fort William to be sent to Central and Mercer. They have earned their clothes and are naked."

During 1907, said Hon. Mr. Hanna, there were 1,162 patients admitted to asylums of the Province, of whom 346 were foreign-born. During the past

five years the percentage of foreigners admitted to these institutions had increased from twenty to thirty per cent., while Canadian-born patients had decreased from eighty to seventy per cent. In the same period from 1903 to 1907 the cost of maintenance of foreign-born patients had increased from \$24,613.20 to \$51,744.30. While the foreign-born of the entire adult population were only 20 per cent., the total admissions to asylums from that class was thirty per cent. The figures showed the necessity of effective methods to prevent the dumping on the Province of undesirables by friends and others aided by charitable associations with no other object than to get rid of the responsibility of providing for them. Taking into consideration the probable length of life of those patients, the cost of maintaining those admitted in 1907 alone would amount to \$1,487,038.80 without including any proportion for capital expenditure.

The bills read a third time were:— Respecting controverted election of members of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Mr. Foy; respecting the town of Southampton, Mr. Bowman; respecting the town of Kenora, Mr. Smellie; respecting the village of Beamsville, Mr. Jessop; to confirm a certain by-law and agreement of the town of Cornwall, Mr. Kerr; respecting the town of Sault Ste. Marie, Mr. Smith; to confirm by-laws Nos. 240, 246, 264 and 291 of the town of Welland, Mr. Fraser; respecting the city of Ottawa, Mr. May; to amend the act respecting municipal houses of refuge, Mr. Kohler; to amend the ditches and watercourses act, Mr. Sutherland; respecting the manufacture and sale of bread, Mr. McNaught.

Mr. Bowyer's bill to amend the municipal drainage act and Mr. Auld's bill for the same purpose were amended and the new bill read a third time.