

a member for every 4682, Richmond for every 6303,—in some counties there would be a member for far less than 5000 people. The Prov Sec had said that he, Mr Annand, had not subscribed to the doctrine of representation by population, and therefore should not complain on that point, but he had always considered population as an important element; the agriculture, the fisheries, the education and the manufactures should all be represented, and population also. The bill, as was previously objected, would, he said, destroy in Halifax completely the principle of representation by population. The influence of East Halifax would be entirely extinguished,—its interests were distinct and separate, having manufacturing or mercantile engagements, and its votes would be swamped by the votes flowing in on them from the western division. In Ontario, in Lower Canada and in New Brunswick district representation was recognized, and the cities returned members,—why then should a distinction be made as to Halifax? The people outside should have their representatives and the citizens theirs. Mr Annand concluded by moving in amendment to the first clause of the bill that the representation for Halifax county be four, two for the city and two for the population outside.

Mr. TOWN considered the bill so fair in all its points that he thought no objection could be fairly made to it, and said that this was the opinion of some gentlemen in opposition whom he had consulted. As to the amendment just moved, if the principle of representation by population was to be recognised, the representation of the entire Province should be remodelled. Supposing such a rule to prevail in England, how many members would London send with a population of nearly three millions. The bill, he said, proposed that every county should have two members in the local Parliament in addition to the one in the House of Commons: Pictou was excepted on account of its size and population; and Halifax was to have three local and two general representatives. However much he might desire an additional member for Halifax, he did not think it would be fair to ask an alteration of the entire principle of the bill. The opposition on the previous day had been so feeble that he had been led to expect that in committee the bill would pass without a division. He believed that the governmental and legislative expenses of the Province were entirely too large for the country. The latter came to \$50,000, out of all proportion to our revenue and population. He believed also that that was the proper time for the change to be made, and he would have been prepared to advocate such a measure even if Union had not taken place.

Hon ATTY GEN said he was not unprepared for a more strenuous opposition than had been shown: the objections which had been raised answered each other effectually. One gentleman complained that the bill went too far; another that it did not go far enough; one said that the constitution should not be interfered with, and another said that the upper branch should be abolished. He would remind the House that they were not in the position of Upper Canada in deal-

ing with this question, for that country was principally governed by municipal institutions, and no Legislative Council was in existence. He did not think it wise to depart from the policy hitherto pursued in that respect. It was unnecessary to discuss the principle of representation by population, for it was impracticable now to alter the lines of the counties as would be necessary. Nothing, then, remained but to adapt the lower branch in such a way that all the interests of the country—farming, fishing, mercantile, and mining—would be represented.

Every county, it should be remembered, had an equal interest in all those branches of industry, and this rendered a special representation of any particular class unnecessary. No one had argued very strenuously that thirty-eight members were insufficient, but the great argument had been that the question should be left to the discretion of those coming after us. The delegates had not shown any fear in entrusting the constitution to the people, because they had provided that it should be in their hands for all time to come; but it was the duty of these gentlemen to put the scheme before the country as a whole. No right or privilege would be taken from the people. It was well known that to deal with the representation, when it was once permanently established, was a very difficult task, and if the measure were not carried now it might be fifteen or twenty years before the local legislators could be induced to vote away their own positions. The member for East Halifax, in arguing one moment on the assumption that the votes of his own district were to be swamped, and then on the assumption that West Halifax was to be affected by the Eastern section, showed how unsubstantial his objections were. As to the amendment, he asked was it worse that a person resident in the city should vote at the same poll as a constituent of East Halifax, than that a person living outside the city limits should do so? It might be said that the interest of the city was purely commercial, but did not the fishing interest operate on both? In the same way the fishing interest of Cape Breton was the same as that of Yarmouth, and so with the agricultural interests of Kings and other counties. The main object was to have all the interests of the Province represented, and that would be accomplished by giving three members to Halifax, three to Pictou, and two to each of the other counties. The main object of a change in the franchise and representation was to secure the best men, and this was the most effectual way of effecting it.

Hon. Mr. SHANNON expressed his surprise at the opposition exhibited. He had expected that the bill would pass without opposition until he heard Mr. Killam's remarks, and that gentleman had secured the co-operation of some of his friends by the magnetic influence which he seemed to exercise. If this change had not been proposed, the eloquence on the other side would have been of a far higher kind than that which had been heard. It was true that the measure was not perfect, but who ever heard of a perfect representation bill? The foundation of such a measure was always shifting, even where population