

passengers would be a great advantage to the country but while the picture was beautiful the realisations were improbable. The bill on the table proposed to give to Halifax a member for every 18,000, to Pictou a member for every 9000, and to Queen's one for every 4,500, and in the face of these facts he felt it his duty to enter a protest against the measure. If the amendment were adopted there would be a representative for every 12,000 inhabitants and each district would be represented. According to the last census the city population was 25,000 and the county population outside the city limits 24,000, so that the amendment would equalise the representation. Was there anything unreasonable in asking that the mercantile community should be separated from the fishing and rural counties? It had been said that the electors of East Halifax would swamp those of West if a division were made, but were not their interests one? He denied that the city would be denuded of its influence by the change as had been alleged; on the contrary it would be placed in a most favorable position.

Mr KAUTSACK remarked that gentlemen of the opposition had been unable to agree among themselves. He regarded that measure as the only practicable one that could be proposed. If an increase were made to one county others would not be satisfied, and if the principle of population were to govern there would have to be a re-division of the counties. He believed that the general feeling was that the representation should be changed to suit the altered circumstances of the country, and the change proposed in the bill would, no doubt, accord with the expectations which prevailed. One important consideration which induced him to support the bill was that it would give to the counties possessing chiefly a fishing interest a larger proportion of representation and influence than they had hitherto enjoyed, and this must meet with general approval as an act of justice. He was in favor of the bill for another reason: he had always disapproved of the system which maintained little pocket boroughs and gave to little settlements the right to return representatives. There was no reason why 2000 people in one district should have the right to elect a member when other parts of the country were treated in a different manner. Again, it was a well known fact that the larger the area and population over which the election was run the less corruption would prevail. This measure he viewed as an important step towards the extension of the franchise. When the representation was extended the franchise should certainly come under consideration. The country had declared in an unmistakable manner that some change in that respect should be made, and that an Act, which struck off 20,000 electors, did not meet with the approval of the people. He knew numbers of worthy and intelligent men who would be deprived of a voice in the approaching election if the present Act were to remain in force. This matter had been forcibly urged upon him by his constituents and he felt it his duty to require that the subject should receive consideration—he would like to go back to be judged by the people who had returned him at the last election. He

had recently received a letter from an officer in the volunteer force who said that, one of the inducements which had been held out to the volunteers to sacrifice their time and means in the patriotic work in which they were engaged was that they had a stake in the country, and a voice in the management of its affairs, and yet these young men had been disfranchised in hundreds. In view of these facts he could hardly face his constituents if he did not urge the Government to bring forward a bill to repeal the present franchise law. As to the representation of Halifax there had always been a feeling that Halifax influence had predominated to too great an extent, that feeling, he believed, originated in prejudice, but the amendment could only be sustained on the principle that population should give the representation, and if that were recognized some counties would be cut down to one member while others would be too largely represented. A separation of East Halifax from the Western section, he thought, would lead to jealousies and dissensions, which would interfere with the rights of both.

Mr. KILLAM said as to the proper time for making the change, it was hardly worth while to discuss that point, because the Provincial Secretary had the power to do almost anything. The government, it would appear, would stick at nothing, for they had carried Confederation when some of their supporters acknowledged in conversation that not one in ten of their constituents were favorable to it. The opposition of the people on that question was no doubt one of the reasons why they were to be now disfranchised to a great extent, and there was no reason to suppose that the government would join two counties together and give them the representation of one, if it were necessary for their object. To suit their purposes counties which had long been divided were to be amalgamated, as in Halifax. As to the plea of economy, it was well known what their policy had been in that respect—a more extravagant government never ruled the country. The subject of the railway had been mooted; the ends of a railway were not always in a position to reap the benefit of the line, and the support that Halifax could get from over 3000 miles of water would not be of much consequence. Holyhead was in a most advantageous situation, if the terminus of a line was of any great consequence, but it was a mere village like Dartmouth, and the passengers went right off in the ferry-boat in so short a time that the people of the place could just have time to run out and see them take their departure. It was well known that sheaves of pamphlets and papers were being sent to the country on the subject of Confederation, to influence the votes at the approaching election, but the statements they contained, like the fanciful representations concerning the railway, would be found to be mere idle wind. The change which had been made would take from the Province its revenues and restrict local improvements. He believed that the bill was framed on a wrong principle, but could not sustain Mr. Annand's amendment because the counties must all share the same fate, and Halifax must suffer with the others.