

forming the divisions care must be taken in all those cases where there are populous localities of an urban character to include them in one and the same division, unless this cannot be done without producing grave inconvenience, and involving boundaries of a very irregular and objectionable character.

Subject to this important rule, each division should be as compact as possible with respect to geographical position, and should be based upon well-known existing areas, such as petty sessional divisions, or other areas consisting of an aggregate of parishes. In some instances, however, it may be found necessary to include separate parishes, but a divisional boundary should not intersect a parish.

Each division will be named from some important town or place within it, preference being given to any merged borough or boroughs, when it consists wholly or mainly of some well-known area, from that area.

When the divisions have thus been provisionally determined, public notice must be given of their contents by advertisement in one or more local newspapers, and day and place appointed for the attendance of one of the members of the commission or an assistant commissioner at some principal town in the county to hear any objections to the proposed constitution of the divisions and receive proposals for their alteration. It will be convenient that the substance of such objection and proposals should be handed in to the commissioner or assistant commissioner in writing.

2. With respect to boroughs.

The duties of the commission will be, in cases where the question of an alteration of boundary arises, to ascertain whether the present boundaries or those indicated by the Bill embrace the whole of the population which ought to be included within the borough. The commissioner will, therefore, previous to making any recommendations, take the necessary steps for satisfying themselves whether or not there are any considerable number of houses beyond the boundaries but contiguous thereto, the occupiers of which, either from community of interests with the borough or from other circumstances, form part of the town population proper. Where, however, the adjoining areas consist of large and populous urban districts it will often be found desirable, especially in those cases where otherwise it would be necessary to intersect the districts, that they should be left to form county divisions instead of being absorbed into the borough.

In every case where the boundaries of a borough are proposed to be altered, whether by extension or otherwise, the alteration should, if possible, be consistent with well established limits, such as parochial or other similar boundaries.

Where the divisions of the boroughs which are to be divided have been provisionally determined, the proceedings will be similar to those in the case of counties.

3. In dealing both with county and borough divisions, the boundaries of the divisions must be adjusted so that the population, excluding in the case of the county divisions that of the parliamentary boroughs, may be proximately equalized and in the arrangement of the divisions special regard should be had to the pursuits of the population. If the county voters having qualifications in a parliamentary borough within a county division are numerous, some regard may properly be had to their num-

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ber in determining the population to be embraced in that division.

As between counties and boroughs, the boundaries must, when the divisions are formed, be in conformity with existing boundaries except so far as these are altered by schedule 5 of the Bill, and where it appears to the commission, from information obtained in the course of their inquiry, that an alteration of existing borough boundaries is desirable, a description of the alteration should be embodied in their report.

I wish to cite, not the whole of the proceedings, but the first step which was taken by the commissioners to carry out their instructions; and I read from the report of the commissioners:

Immediately upon our appointment, which was dated the 29th of November last, we entered upon our duties, and shortly afterwards, finding that without additional assistance we should be unable to complete the work entrusted to us before the re-assembling of parliament, we applied for the appointment of three assistant commissioners, and accordingly Major General Phipps Cary, R. E., Captain M. W. Skinner, R.E., and G. Pemberton Leach, Esquire, barrister-at-law, were, with the consent of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, attached to the commission in that capacity.

You see, therefore, that the work entrusted to the commissioners was simply to carry out the intentions of parliament. They were asked to look at old charts and old maps, to find out the grouping of the population and so on, in order to get the best division that could be made. They were to have so many constituencies within a certain area, and to divide so many boroughs and so many counties in order to produce so many electoral divisions. It was found that could not be done by parliament in England, because information was needed which parliament could not possibly ascertain of itself. There are no such difficulties confronting us in the present case as were experienced in England. We have a very sparse population in the Northwest Territories; there are no ranges of mountains to divide population on one side or the other; there are no large rivers, except those which are well known to us; there are not many streams, and therefore we are cognizant of all the conditions which enable us to do the mechanical work which, in England, was entrusted to commissioners. The leader of the opposition asks what principles we have followed in order to arrive at this conclusion. Well, we have endeavoured to be guided by two principles—geographical conditions and population. These are the only two principles which we think should guide us under existing circumstances, and whether we have this matter settled here and now or whether we appoint a commission of judges or of any other body, they will always have to come back in the last resort, to those two guiding principles—geographical position and distribution of population. It is true that the result will never