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RICHIBUCTO, N. B., JUNE 22, 1899

THE REDISTRIBUTION BILL.

The remarks of Postmaster General Mulock in moving the second reading of the Redistribution Bill fully explained the reasons which led the Government to attempt a rectification of the wrong committed by the Conservative Gerrymander Bill of 1882. The census of 1881 showed that the average of population in the constituencies of Ontario was 20,904 and the Conservative claim was that their Gerrymander Bill would equalize the population of each constituency by tacking a slice of one County on to another It was not of course to be expected that each constituency would be exactly equal in population, but if the Conservative claim had been honest we would expect to find as the result of the Gerrymander Bill of 1882 that they did not vary more than three thousand in their respective population or a variance between 19,000 and 22,000 As a matter of fact, out of the 92 constituencies in Ontario only 28 are within these limits, while 64 are outside of them. Leeds and Granville have a population of 12,000, while the member for West Toronto represents over three times that number of constituents. These figures show at a glance that the claim of the Conservative party in disregarding county lines was a mere pretence, while the real reason for the Gerrymander mander Bill. Bill was in the hope of "hiving the Grits" and so gaining an unfair had its first reading it was pointed party advantage.

showed, this latter idea was suc- allowed the City of Toronto which the right-thinking men of the cessfully carried out, eight hives with a population of 178,000, was being made for their Liberal op- only given 4 representatives. This of Commons and has shown the ponents with the result that on ac- defect has been remedied by the count of the unfair advantage Government, the Bill being It needs no prophetic vision to given them by the old Bill of 1882 amended to allow Toronto an adthe Conservatives robbed their ditional member or five in all To political opponents of 10 seats in do this the County of Kent, Onthe election of 1887, the same tario, is reduced from three meranumber in 1891 and 14 seats in bers to two which is also tairer the general election of 1896, to than it was according to the nummention the one Provine of On- ber of its population. • tario. So that to-day, instead of the Liberal Party having a ma- mend itself to the House and the jority of 19 or 20 Ontario mem- Bill as it stands is certainly the bers, this unfair method of politi- fairest measure of the kind that cal juggling only gives them a could be framed. The Governmajority of five from that Prov- ment has not dealt with the subince.

different constituencies had been in doing if the scandalous example the insulting of the public men equalized by the obnoxious Gerry- of their political opponents in that mander of 1882 it would not be a direction in years gone by makes sufficient excuse for the arbitrary a precedent for them to follow. method of making constituencies That the present Government has out of parts of several counties. not followed the tyrannical display As any one can see at a glance the of power exhibited by the Conser- country at a standstill day after This happy ending of a very seri- public mails made no exception to interests of each County are sep- vatives in 1878 and 1882 in the arate and distinct from those of passing of their infamous Gerrythe adjoining Counties, and it mander Bills, is to be commended, makes an unreasonable and un- and the fact will strengthen the workable constituency to manu- Laurier administration with the facture it out of parts of different right thinking people of Canada. municipalities. In all their parish An administration with a majority and municipal government the of over 50, which is strong enough elector's interest is bound up in to resist such a temptation to abuse that of the particular County in its strength, is a novelty in Cana- every movement made by the through the division surerintenwhich he resides, and it is unreada, and the electorate can afford

small in population to entitle it to ever committed by a government So in this Province, Victoria and tion is made for opposition sake. Madawaska are invited to form one tederal constituency as have the Counties of Queens and Sunbury. As we have shown, where the outrage was committed most generally of disregarding county lines was in the Province of Ontario, where there is no county so entitled to a member, while many of the counties elect two, three or even four members.

wrong will be righted, and 'the constituencies will be made up ac-.Committee of three Supreme Court Judges of the Province. From this it will be seen that the Govproposed changes in the constituencies as would naturally be charged against them if they were attempting to define the bounds of are not attempting in 1899 what the Conservatives so successfully worked out in 1882 by the Gerry-

When the Redistribution Bill out that there was a flaw in it in As the Hon. Mr. Mulock regard to the number of members

This one amendment must comject from a partisan standpoint as Even if the population of the they might have been warranted

sonable in federal matters to bind to keep such a government in him over to an alien community power. All the obstruction of by preventing him from voting for which the Opposition has shown the member representing the itself capable, all of the abuse of County in which he lives. An ex- which that grand master in the ample or two will show this prin- art of billings-gate-the Opposiciple better than any argument. tion leader-has been able to pour Supposing after the census of 1881 on the heads of his political opthe large constituencies of North- ponents, nay, not even all the logicumberland and Westmoreland had chopping oratory of that sanctibeen partially divided up in order monious pedigogue who misrepreto give a slice of the former to sents the Conservatives from this the less populous constituency of Province will have the slightest Kent and a parish of the County effect, is misleading the public of Westmoreland had been tacked mind. The public of Canada is on to the County of Albert, what shrewd enough to know a fair would the people so separated measure and to understand that from their natural surroundings the passing of the Redistribution have thought of the change? Bill is the carrying out of another Here in New Brunswick we have of the pledges given by the Libbeen of one opinion in thinking eral party when in opposition by that when a County became too which one of the foulest wrongs a member it was wiser to attach on a free people will after 17 years that County to some other to form be righted and previous conditions a united constituency than to break restored. Any opposition made to up the county lines and make con it will but redound to the disgrace stituencies up regardless of muni- of the Conservative party and will cipal boundaries and affiliations. show the country that the opposi-

AN IGNOBLE POLICY.

The grand old Conservative party seems to have buried its traditions on the evening of its Waterloo, June 23rd, 1896, for since that time it has developed no greater thing than carping deficient in population as not to be criticism of the measures of its opponents, lack of courtesy in debate on the part of its leaders and representatives in the House of Commons and a decided inability By the Redistribution Bill the to accept defeat gracefully. The latter virtue is one after which politicians strive, and while they may not always acquire it in percording to County boundaries. fection, as a usual thing, some In Counties where the population semblance of it has been shown position is merely vexatious. justifies more than one member, by defeated political parties in Whether it be that the opposition the County will be divided into this country since confederation. fears to go to the people this year, two or more ridings, but the gov- That it is entirely wanting in the and thinks by prolonging the sesernment will not attempt to fix liament has unfortunately been all time which will certainly relegate the bounds of each riding, very too apparent in the obstruction most of the obstructionists to priproperly and fairly leaving that tactics displayed towards nearly vate life, we are not in a position important task to a non-partisan every government measure. It to say. Such an assumption has ernment is attempting to make no stoppage of the country's business. sued by the opposition for the past unfair political capitalist of the It was such tactics before confed- three years. If this be correct, we each constituency. The Liberals a complete deadlock. Happily ship. The only trouble about putposition is like a rattlesnake deprived of its fangs, it is capable of lots of noise but it is, without any thanks to itself, quite harmless.

> Moreover, the exhibition of obthat party has disgusted many of party both in and out of the House people of Canada that it has lost the capacity for good government. tortell the result of the next general elections for the federal house for Conservatives themselves freely admit that their party is to-day discredited and cannot hope to get possession of the country's confidence until a radical change has been effected in the party and its policy. The littleness of the exhibition made by Sir Charles Tupper, Geo. E. Forster, H. A. Powell and Geo. V. McInerney (to mention only the worst offenders from the Maritime Provinces) has shewn the electorate that until a new race of leaders has labour strike in the history of capable hands with the result been developed in that party who Canada. The Management has above mentioned. will have some higher aim than and the vexatious delaying of the public business of Canada, it would be decidedly unsafe to entrust the Conservatives with the reins of

> To keep the business of the day in a useless obstruction of one measure after another shows that no higher statesmanship on the part of the opposition leader than who beats his head against the wall because his wishes have been crossed. It shews that it is not any inherent wrong in the measures opposed because the obstrucgovernment and therefore the op dents and in case of any being re- Seeing this disposition to fairness

you look old. Even pale cheeks won't do it. Your household cares may be heavy and disappoint-ments may be deep, but they cannot make you look One thing does it and never fails. It is impossible to look young with the color of seventy years in your hair. permanently postpones the tell-tale signs of age. Used

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Conservative representation in par- sion it may postpone the fated has been only the numerical weak- been very generally made by the ness of the Conservative represen- people of New Brunswick, at least, tation that has prevented such as the only plausible reason for the tactics resulting in the absolute ignoble policy of obstruction pureration which made government commend the obstructionists for of any kind or by any party im their worldly wisdom for assuredly possible in old Canada where the this year will be a bad time for parties were so evenly divided them to face the electorate and that obstruction became in time give an accounting oftheir stewardto-day in this Dominion there is ting off the evil day is that judgno immediate danger of this latter ing from the public feeling the result, for as we have said the op- demand for an accounting will be even stricter and more serious in result in another year than it is to-day, for undoubtedly each session has strengthened the Laurier political capital out of the trouble Administration so much more. on the part of the Conservative struction given by the leaders of However, misery likes company opposition was not only ill-advised, and we notice it is the New Bruns- but prejudicial to the interests of wick members who are certain of the men, as advices to hand would defeat who are pursuing the ob- indicate that the negotiations bestructionist tactics most thorough- tween Sir Wilfred and the Comly. The people meanwhile are pany were delayed and their suc quietly biding their time to show cess endangered by the fiasco of these gentlemen who the rulers of H. A. Powell, M. P., and Mr. Canada are and when the people Taylor, the Conservative whip, get in their obstruction work at who without influence either with the next election there won't be the corporation or the strikers, an obstructionist left in public life | undertook to gain glory for themto worry anybody.

THE STRIKE ENDED.

Grand Trunk Railway manage agreed to take back all of the men excepting a very few who have in the House of Commons the been guilty of lawlessness during Government as a government was the strike, and will meet a com- powerless to interfere in a matter mittee of five trackmen, employees of private bargain between emof the road, to discuss and adjust ployer and emp oyed, and the fact as far as possible the grievances that the employer happened to be which led the men to go on strike. a railway corporation carrying ous labour problem is the result of the principle unless it could be negotiations between Sir Wilfred shown that the effect of the strike Laurier assisted by the Liberal was to interfere with the carriage whip, Mr. James Sutherland, and of mails or render the road unsate is displayed by any spoiled child the President and General Mana- for passenger traffic. In this case ger of the Grand Trunk Railway, neither of these exceptions were which was successfully concluded present. The Government could on Sunday afternoon last. The therefore only hope to maintain an understanding is that the men will influence with the conflicting inapply to the Grand Trunk for em- terests by refusing to act hastily tion is directed blindly against ployment in the ordinary manner

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the general superintendent. strike will be gladly received all tions is the termination of a strike over the country as very much which was ruinous to both the sympathy was expressed with the railway and the trackmen. trackmen in their efforts to obtain a proper living wage, and this sympathy found expression in many ill-advised ways calculated to provoke lawless acts against the property of the Railway Company, and a consequent determination not to yield to the demands of its employees on the part of that corporation. The effort too to make selves and their party by ending the strike. The result was a decided failure which left the relations of the conflicting interests even more strained than before. Telegraphic despatches to hand | The action of these two gentlemen indicate the successful adjustment | reminded us forcibly of the quotaof the differences between the tion, "Fools rush in where angels fear to tread," but happily the ment and the trackmen which re- work so badly bungled by Messrs. sulted in perhaps the most serious | Powell and Taylor fell into more

> As Sir Wilfred Laurier stated or tyrannically in the matter.

fused they are to appeal direct to in time both parties were willing to accept the Premier as a medi-The news of the ending of the ater and the result of the negotia-

THAT MINING CALAMITY.

The explosion in the Dominion Coal Company's mine at Glace Bay, Cape Breton, last week, and the consequent loss of a number of human lives calls for the serious consideration of the Nova Scotia Minister of Mines. A rigid investigation should be insisted upon to shew where the blame, if any, lies in order to prevent if possible the future repetition of so terrible a calamity in similar mines throughout Cape Breton and other parts of Nova Scotia. It would seem with the advance of science and the improvement in the apparatus for the safeguarding of life in pursuit of the dangerous vocation of mining that such laccidents might be prevented more generally than is the case.

Our sympathy goes out to the families and friends of those so suddenly stricken from the roll call, and we hope that the shock occasioned by so great a calamity will at least serve the purpose we have mentioned of seeing that every care is exercised to event such accidents in the futue

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