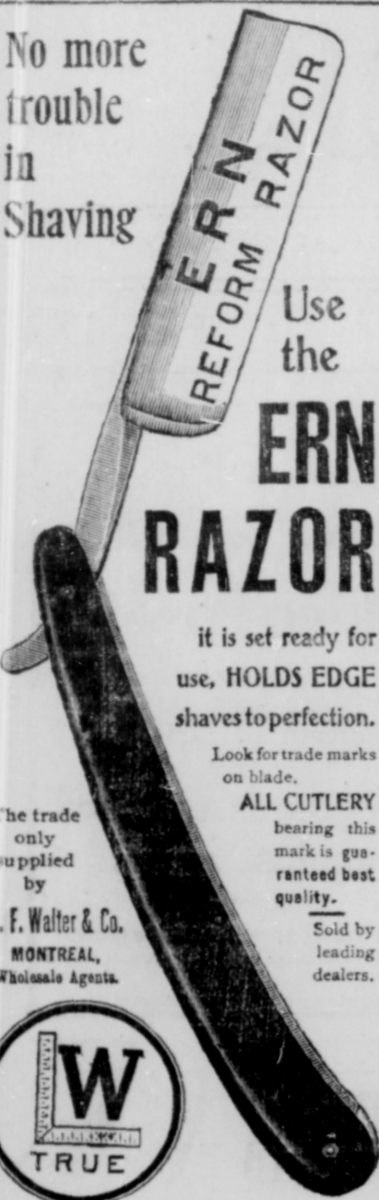


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MILLS LIKENED TO LADY MACBETH

BOTHWELL IS THE "DAMNED SPOT" WHICH HE WANTS TAKEN OUT.

Senator Ferguson on the Senate's Right to Reject a Measure Dealing With the Lower House.

(From The Mail and Empire.)

Senator Ferguson resumed the debate in the Upper House on the second reading of the Redistribution bill. He said he had heard it alleged that the Senate had no right to reject a measure dealing with the Lower House. He thought it had a most undoubted right to do so. He quoted in support of the contention the action of the English House of Lords in refusing in 1884 its sanction to a Redistribution bill, and quoted the speeches of Lord Kimberley and Lord Rosebery, both of whom held that the Lords had their undoubted right to reject that measure. The Senate, he said, was called upon to consider this bill under the most peculiar circumstances. In another place there was under consideration a resolution aiming at the independence of the liberty and the co-ordinate honour and dignity of the Senate. With one hand the Government had brought down this extraordinary measure, and with the other the threat contained in that resolution. The Government could find no parallel in constitutional history for the present bill, and would have to go back to the later days of the Roman Republic, when tyrants placed soldiers in the public places to overawe the tribunals of the people. The only excuse given for the introduction of the measure so far was that it was in the interest of the party to undo a wrong which it was claimed had been committed by the Redistribution bill of 1882. The only effect the bill would have would be to produce some changes in the constituencies favorable to the party in power. He quoted Sir Louis Davies in 1892, when speaking on the Redistribution bill of that year, and said the language used on that occasion was prophetic, as it expressed the view that the Liberal party would get into power by accident. One objection to the bill was that it was not general in its character, and only dealt with Western Ontario, Prince Edward Island, the city and county of St. John, and a few scattered constituencies in Quebec. He quoted the resolution moved by Sir Wilfred Laurier in 1891 to refer the question of redistribution to a committee of both political parties, and asked why it was that the Government had not followed the idea laid down in that resolution.

Hon. David Mills said the Liberal party had tried then to get the Conservative Government to agree to this method, but had failed.

Senator Ferguson quoted the precedent in England in 1884, when the Redistribution bill of that year was framed by a joint committee of both political parties. There was, he claimed, nothing in the shape of principle about the bill contrary to the much abused bill of 1882, which had as its principle representation by population. In support of this contention he quoted the speech of Sir Mackenzie Bowell during the debate on that bill.

Hon. David Mills wanted to know if Senator Ferguson accepted the view then enunciated by Sir Mackenzie Bowell.

Senator Ferguson replied that he believed that, in so far as possible, the principle of representation by population should be followed.

Hon. David Mills—Then you do not approve of the present state of things?

Senator Ferguson replied that he did not, and expressed the conviction that there should be changes made. It was not long since Hon. David Mills had himself advocated single constituencies, but this bill laid as many double constituencies as there were before.

ACTUATED BY VENGEANCE.

The county boundary principle, he claimed, was not observed in this bill, except in Western Ontario. This alleged principle was a fetish to which the Minister of Justice bowed down and worshipped. He accused the Minister of Justice of being actuated by vengeance as regards the changes made in the county of Bothwell, and likened him to Lady Macbeth after the murder, saying, "Out, out, damned spot!" (Laughter.)

The Minister of Justice said that in 1882 he had proposed to do away with Bothwell.

Senator Ferguson read from the speech of the Minister of Justice on that occasion to show that he favored the making of Kent and Lambton constituencies, leaving Bothwell with a population of 21,000.

Hon. David Mills said he did not propose that Bothwell should be anything but a part of Lambton and Kent.

Senator Ferguson said that only a moment ago the Minister had said that he had proposed to wipe out Bothwell altogether, and now admitted that he wanted to make it part of Lambton and Kent.

THE COMMISSION OF JUDGES.

Speaking of the division of constituencies by the judges Senator Ferguson quoted Sir Wilfred Laurier in 1892 in opposition to this method, which was now practically adopted, though in New

Brunswick Mr. Blair had decided that he could better divide St. John city and county himself. In Prince Edward Island the bill created double constituencies and laid down that they should not be divided. He took the ground that the bill was unconstitutional, and quoted Sir Louis Davies as denying the inherent right of Parliament to pass such a bill at the present, and a speech of the Minister of Justice in 1882 dealing with the constitutional aspect of the case in the same light. He contended that section 51 of the British North America Act specially applied to this case, and went at length into an able argument to prove that the only redistribution sanctioned by the constitution was that, after each decennial census. He quoted in support of this view speeches made by Sir Louis Davies and the Minister of Justice.

THREATS AGAINST THE SENATE

He then took up the section of the bill dealing with Prince Edward Island, and reviewed the history of the constituencies in the Island in order to show that the changes proposed to be made were entirely for the purpose of party gain. After careful consideration, he had come to the conclusion that he could do nothing else than oppose the bill. Mr. Greenshields, a particular friend of the Government in Quebec had said that if the Senate defeated this bill it would take its life in its hand. That threat, to his mind, would form a very excellent reason, for the Senate throwing out the bill, and he quoted Lord Grenville and Lord Carnarvon in the House of Lords in 1885, when there was a popular outcry in England against the Lords for throwing out a reform bill. He hoped that there were those even in the ranks of the Government who would rather cease to exist than live under a menace of this kind.

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One of the most distressing symptoms imaginable is the almost unbearable itching which is an accompaniment of Leucorrhoea or whites. The nerves are irritated by the poisonous discharge, and the result is an itching which is only rendered more excruciating by rubbing or scratching.

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AND COMMENTS

—The Auditor-General's report shows: 275 Japanese lanterns at 17 1-2 cents. 150 Japanese lanterns at 12 cents. 1 gross rockets at \$11.67. 450 bucket lanterns at \$20.75. 10 doz. torches at 20 cents. 100 torches, \$20. Sundries, \$25.20. Cases and cartage, \$4.75.


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