

THE DAILY EXAMINER

JULY 25, 1899.

**REPRESENTATION
BY POPULATION.**

The Guardian maintains—the British North America Act to the contrary notwithstanding—that “it is clearly within the power of the Parliament of Canada to increase the representation of the Province of Quebec,” etc. Well the letter of the law is clear—“Quebec shall have the fixed number of sixty-five members.” In point of fact, while there have been increases and decreases in other provinces, the representation of Quebec has remained fixed at “sixty-five” ever since Confederation. We contend, in opposition to the Guardian, that the representation of Quebec must remain “fixed” until the British North America Act has been amended in that regard or Canada has successfully asserted her independence. That there have been increases, that there may be increases, in the representation of all other parts of Canada we admit. The law is so clear that he who runs may read. It is provided—we quote Bourionot’s rendering of the act—that the number of members may be from time to time increased, provided that the proportionate representation prescribed in the act is not thereby disturbed. What, then, is the “proportionate representation prescribed in the act?” It is provided that—

“There shall be assigned to each of the other provinces such a number of members as will bear the same proportion to the number of its population (ascertained at such census) as the number sixty-five bears to the number of the population of Quebec (so ascertained.)”

The Guardian seems to have overlooked this important provision.

If we look a little more deeply into the matter, the reason of the limitation will be clear. The leader of the Liberal Fathers of Confederation, Hon. George Brown, contended for representation by population. Sir John Macdonald and the others fell in with this view. The difficulty was to have representation according to population, and keep the number of members of the House of Commons within reasonable limits. It was seen that Canada would grow and increase both in size and population, that new territories would be taken in, that the inhabitants of the whole country would prosper and increase. How then afford representation according to population and keep within reasonable limits the number of representatives? An idea of how it struck the Fathers of Confederation may be obtained by perusal of the following interesting quotation from the record of discussions in conference:

COLONEL GRAY (Prince Edward Island)—I am instructed by my co-delegates to say that the provision of five members is unsatisfactory. Prince Edward Island is divided longitudinally into three counties, each returning two members. But they are always opposed to change of representation. We cannot divide the three counties into the five members.

MR. BROWN—Every Province must revise its own electoral divisions to suit the number of its representation.

MR. COLES—Mr. Galt had proposed six members for Prince Edward Island. I approved that rather than Mr. Brown’s motion, because it allows us to give to our three counties two members each.

MR. POPE—I was absent last night. I was under the impression that it had been clearly laid down at Charlottetown that representation by population was to form the basis of the Lower House. I could not, therefore, have argued for a greater number than our population entitled us to get. I agree in all that has been said by Colonel Gray and Mr. Coles. But the circumstances are such that I hope the Conference will agree to give us such a number as we can divide amongst our three constituencies. Nature, as well as the original settlement of the Island, has

made three counties, and it would give rise to much difficulty, if we had to adjust five members to the three counties. I cannot ask it as a matter of right, but one of expedience, as one without which it is impossible for us to carry the measure in Prince Edward Island. I therefore, ask for six members.

MR. HAVILAND—I fully agree with Mr. Pope. It would be an insuperable difficulty to us if we had not six members.

MR. BROWN—To give Prince Edward Island five members the total properly should be 205. It is obvious we cannot depart from representation by population. The only thing to do would be to take Prince Edward Island as the basis which would give a House of 230, altogether too large. Give one member to each county and let the whole Island elect the other two, and keep the number five intact; or let the whole Island elect five. We should have to add thirty-eight members to the House in order to give Prince Edward Island six, as the basis of representation by population.

After many such discussions as this, the plan of making Quebec the “Pivotal Province” was hit upon and carried into effect,—so that however the representation of the other Provinces may be changed, the representation of Quebec remains “fixed” at “sixty-five.”

We beg to apologise to the better informed of our readers for taking pains to explain a point which is understood, or ought to be understood, by every school boy in Canada.

But what shall be said of the Liberal Party, the successors of George Brown, who now desire to avoid the plan adopted by the Fathers of Confederation to secure representation by population, and now strive to evade the letter and spirit of the constitution by such subterfuges as have been exposed in their untimely Redistribution Bill—particularly as to this Province and the city of Toronto? Fortunately, we have an independent Senate to prevent the enactment of such illiberality and injustice.

“CREDIT TO WHOM CREDIT.”

WHILE reporting and commenting upon the Parliamentary efforts of Messrs. Martin and McDonald to obtain a reduction of the fares charged by the P. E. Island Railway, we have no desire, whatever, to detract—as The Patriot implies—from the credit that is due the Charlottetown Board of Trade. That the Board of Trade memorialized the Minister of Railways and the Intercolonial Railway authorities with reference to the matter has never been denied by THE EXAMINER; and we fail to see how the bear story applies in any way to Messrs. McDonald and Martin who, in the course of public discussion, while performing their duty in Parliament, so ably and forcibly brought the matter before the assembled representatives of Canada that the Minister of Railways was constrained to compliment them and to say that he would give the matter his consideration. If the Board of Trade has any cause of complaint it is against the Minister of Railways who neglected to inform Parliament that the Board had already directed his attention to the subject of a reduction of fares, etc., and that upon their representations he had already given it some consideration. But perhaps he had forgotten all about the Board’s memorial! If so, the fact, goes to show the value of five representatives in Parliament. The Minister of Railways is not likely to forget Messrs. McDonald and Martin’s “forcible presentation of the case.”

—Senator Prowse in the course of the Senate debate on the Redistribution Bill, asked why had not the Yukon been given representation under it? Was the Government afraid to give the people there the right to vote, lest the mismanagement there would ensure an adverse vote to the Government? He maintained that the principle of representation by population took precedence to the adherence to county boundaries and should have been adopted in the bill.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

—The Montreal Star says that “the Federal elections may be expected within three months.”

—A new word is now worth noticing. Rev. D. V. Lucas, of Ontario, calls Liberals in office “hypogrits” and explains that “a hypogrit” is a hypocrite gone to seed.

—The Manitoba and Northwest crops promise splendidly. And as the prospects in Europe are not promising for large crops, prices to our farmers are likely to be good.

—According to Lloyd’s register there are now under construction in Great Britain no less than 85 ships of war, of a total displacement of 452,075 tons. Britons seem to be determined to hold their own.

—From the returns compiled by Lloyd’s register of shipping, it appears that, excluding warships there were 568 vessels of 1,386,367 tons gross under construction in the United Kingdom at the close of the quarter ended 30th June, 1899. This is a great showing.

—The Watchman doubts that the amount to be granted towards the construction of the Belfast-Murray Harbor and Hillsborough bridge will be expended. It asks: “What reason have we to believe that we will fare any better than the people of Summerside? None at all.”

—On the 30th June, Provincial Governments owed the Bank of Nova Scotia \$273,175 and the Merchants Bank of Halifax \$124,436. How much was owing by the Government of this Province we cannot tell. But it is safe to say that P. E. Island is in it.

—It is said that the Midland Railway between Truro and Windsor, when completed, will be the best built railway in the Lower Provinces, the culverts and substructure of all the bridges being of stone, and the grades and curves of the most favorable kind for fast and safe running. It is quite likely that the Midland will be extended eastward to Brule, a port on the Straits of Northumberland, opposite Charlottetown, and westward from Windsor to the town of Chester, a favorite watering-place on the Atlantic coast.

—The Roentgen rays detected a pretty fraud the other day at Washington. A Pennsylvania man named J. M. Aldrich, of Bradford, had invented a perpetual motion machine, a series of arms extending from a wheel which when started kept revolving continuously. The machine stood on a slab of wood. A model was sent to the Patent office at Washington, where they turned the X rays on the slab of wood and got a photograph showing a delicate spring and clock work concealed in the wood. It is a pity the X rays could not be turned on that machine in West Elgin which Mr. Preston urged Mr. Macdonald to buy.

—In the course of the Senate debate on the Redistribution Bill, Sir William Hingston said that there might be an unwritten constitution in Canada but it was fortunate for a man like himself, who had the good fortune not to be a lawyer, to be able to turn from the hair-splitting distinctions of the unwritten constitution to what was written and could be understood. He admitted that the Senate should accommodate itself to the Lower House when it could, but not where there was a difference of opinion on a matter of principle. According to the contention of the Government, there was no good reason why a strong administration might not change the constituencies every year. He thought there was ample evidence in former legislation that it was never intended by the constitution that there should be more than one redistribution after each decennial census. He therefore believed that the present bill was contrary to the constitution.

Moonlight sail on steamer Princess tomorrow evening will be properly conducted. Limited number of tickets only will be sold.—See advt. for particulars.
Mr. W. A. Weeks went over to Picou, by the Princess this morning.

**Moonlight
Sail
—AND—
STRAWBERRY
FESTIVAL
TO-NIGHT**

The young people of St. James’ Church intend holding a moonlight sail and strawberry festival on

THE STEAMER PRINCESS

Tuesday evening, July 25th, proceeds in aid of Boy’s Brigade. Tickets can be procured from Mr. Fullerton, Harry Stirling, Ernest Coffin, W. A. Martin and W. A. Stewart. Price 30c each. Positively no tickets sold at the wharf. If the evening is unfavorable the sail will take place next fine evening or money refunded. The congregation are requested to secure tickets immediately as only a limited number can be sold. 82nd Battalion Band in attendance.

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You require lighter Underclothing. We can suit you with the Finest Balbriggan, Cotton and Natural Wool, the thin kind.

Shirts and Drawers 35 cents.

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Morris Block.....

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J. J. JOHNSTON,

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That very desirable three story brick building, situated on Dorchester Street, near corner of Queen.

This is one of the finest business stands in the city, with frost proof cellar, good shop, office and 15 large airy rooms.

There is also on the premises a good stable. Terms moderate.

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MRS OWEN CONNOLLY,
Connolly House, Esplanade
Gas and electric lights.

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That Will
Not Sag**



Wanted to have on flowery beds of ease? No, you won't be that if you sleep on Hercules Springs, but you will be wadded to the Land of Pleasant Dreams and will rise each morning, thoroughly refreshed and feeling like a new creation.

We have been testing this mattress for the last two years and being satisfied that they are ten times better than the ordinary style wire mattress. We have secured the entire control of this bed for P. E. Island—They cost no more than other beds, and if you test one you will readily discover the difference.

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