

The farmers there are good, law-abiding citizens, and I do not see why that parish should go to Rimouski. If the hon. gentleman from Rimouski is fortunate in having Trois Pistoles, he is twice lucky in having Ste. Françoise added to his constituency. Again, St. Jean de Dieu is a parish nineteen miles inland from the Canadian National Railways, with a population of two or three thousand, a place of which anyone might well be proud. Its agricultural society is a notable feature of it and the farmers are quite up to date; they win prizes in fairs, and they show a most enterprising spirit. My hon. friend from Rimouski is thrice happy in having these people join his constituency, and for my part I am thrice unhappy—yes, and four times, if you consider Notre Dame du Portage, which goes to the other constituency.

I have written, to one man in each of these parishes, the following communication. I prepared it and sent it off when I was first told that these parishes would be removed from the electoral district of Témiscouata:

(Translation)

You have all been too good to me that I should consent to sever the ties that bind me to any of you. Therefore, I would ask you to read this letter to all the electors of your parish, both Conservatives and Liberals, and to have petitions signed by the ladies who are entitled to vote as well as by the men, and forward same to me as soon as possible.

I look upon the county of Témiscouata as one large family and I do not want them to take away a single one of my electors, no matter what his political persuasion may be.

I consider myself in a privileged position, Mr. Chairman, inasmuch as I am the only member who has presented to the house petitions from heads of families in my own constituency protesting against these changes. These petitions were signed by 113 electors of St. Francois; 180 electors of Notre Dame du Portage; 212 electors of St. Jean de Dieu; and 480 electors of Trois Pistoles parish and town—all heads of families.

Mr. ST-PERE: Were they only Liberals?

Mr. POULIOT: Both Liberals and Conservatives, and from St. Jean de Dieu I received a letter from the mayor saying that the petition was signed by all except two, who had their own reasons for not signing it, but who were equally opposed to the change. I can assure the committee that the people in that county will be outraged at these changes. I am not going to say anything further on that score but will simply leave it to my hon. friends opposite to do what is fair. These petitions were tabled in the house and I asked the chairman of the committee to call

for them. He told me he did so, but the fact is that they have been entirely disregarded, notwithstanding that these parishes have been in the constituency for eighty years.

And now, Mr. Chairman, I have a duty to perform, a duty which is neither pleasant nor unpleasant; it is not an elegy, it is merely a matter of form and course. In case there is an election this summer or in the fall, or in the interval at any time between now and the next meeting of parliament, I wish to say good-bye to my hon. friend from Champlain (Mr. Baribeau), whose constituency has been divided. I wish to say good-bye to my hon. friend from Berthier-Maskinonge (Mr. Barrette), who has two provincial counties. I wish to say good-bye to my hon. friend from St. Antoine (Mr. Bell), in whose constituency there is a change—all Conservatives. I wish to say good-bye to my hon. friend from Pontiac (Mr. Belec), and to my hon. friend from Three Rivers (Mr. Bourgeois), whose constituencies have been changed to serve him better. There is one member from the province of Quebec to whom I will not say good-bye, and to whom I will refer later. I am speaking now of the hon. the Secretary of State (Mr. Cahan), whose dignity, efficiency and competency are admired by us all on this side. But I will say good-bye to my hon. friend from Quebec-Montmorency (Mr. Dorion), though I cannot congratulate him upon the mess the committee made of things. I wish to say good-bye also to my hon. friend from Lake St. John (Mr. Duguay), and to the Solicitor General (Mr. Dupre), who is the member for Quebec West. To him I say good-bye and farewell. I say good-bye also to the Minister of Marine (Mr. Duranleau), and so far as he is concerned there is one thing that causes me regret—I will tell him frankly. Naturally he is fair; he has an excellent legal training and is one of the masters of his profession at the bar. He is highly respected in that profession, which he adorns. The only complaint I have to make is that he paid too much attention to the silly petitions and the unfair requests put before him. I have not had any business dealings with him but I like him very much personally. I bid good-bye and farewell to the hon. member for Levis (Mr. Fortin). He will be no longer a member of this house because the Solicitor General will run in that constituency. But I am sure he will be defeated by any candidate who runs for the Liberal party. I have known the hon. member for Dorchester (Mr. Gagnon) a long time. I knew him at college where he was doing