

the electors of St. Dominique and St. Pie, protesting against the changes proposed by the Minister of Justice, and requesting to remain in the County of Bagot. If I am mistaken, I have been misled by my informants. My hon. friend says he objects to see a part of his county thrown into Rouville, or at least, that he never asked for this change. But that is not the question. I understand that after his two experiences of 1887 and 1891, he might well try to make his county more easy. He attempted to ridicule the movement which in 1887 allowed him to be returned by acclamation. I believe that without the help of a certain number of electors which his Quebec friends have endeavoured to disfranchise during the present session, he would not have to-day the honour of sitting here. But, what I am certain of, is that the electors of St. Dominique and St. Pie appreciate their member at his proper value; and if these electors had had an opportunity to make themselves heard they would have protested against the project of throwing their parishes in the County of Rouville. My hon. friend for Verchères (Mr. Geoffrion) thinks he is the only one aimed at in the changes which are proposed. I think that I share in his fate. After the last provincial elections the general cry among the Conservatives of St. Hyacinthe was that the county should be gerrymandered "to beat Bernier," as they said. They could certainly not succeed in punishing me personally, for in defeating me, they would serve my private interests and those of my family. If my head is wanted, let at least the County of St. Hyacinthe remain with the present boundaries. The annexation of Ste. Marie Magdeleine to the County of Rouville is strange; but the union of St. Damase to the same county seems to me extraordinary. The member for Bagot must know that the parish of St. Damase has always given a Conservative majority. It is true that in 1891, this parish made the mistake, according to certain Conservatives, of giving me 56 majority and that is perhaps the reasons of the punishment it meets to-day. But if the member for Bagot is good enough to refer to the returns of the last provincial elections, he will see that this parish gave 26 votes of majority to the Conservatives; and if he took part in the confection of the new political map, he should have paid a tribute of gratitude to this parish for the support it gave to his friends and let it remain in the County of St. Hyacinthe.

Mr. CHAPLEAU. (Translation.) The County of St. Hyacinthe gave a majority to the Conservatives at the last provincial elections.

Mr. BERNIER. (Translation.) I am ready to admit that, and the Minister of Customs should admit in return that when a Conservative and a Liberal are elected in a county, the chances ought to be left equal. If the electors of St. Damase had been warned that they were to be annexed to the County of Rouville I know that there would have been a general protest. It is not we, the inhabitants of the county, who settle matters for the county, but outsiders who come and inspire their friends of St. Hyacinthe. For some time since, a prominent Conservative of St. Hyacinthe owned to me that it was proposed to put St. Damase in Rouville. I immediately informed some Conservatives of the parish, who answered me that the thing was absurd and impossible, and that if the Government

should become guilty of such an outrage the indignation would be general in the parish. As to Ste. Marie Magdeleine, I wish to put before the House and the country the protest of the electors of that parish, Conservatives as well as Liberals, against the project of placing this parish in the County of Rouville. I hold in my hand a resolution, almost unanimously adopted by these electors, and protesting against this annexation. If the committee will allow, and if I am in order, I will read it, and will take the liberty of giving the names of those who signed it, so that they be recorded. Here is the resolution:

"At a general meeting of the electors of the parish of Ste. Marie Magdeleine, in the County of St. Hyacinthe, held at the church door of said parish on Sunday, 15th May, 1892, Mr. Gédéon Blanchette, mayor, being in the chair, and Mr. J. D. Rainville acting as secretary.

"The chairman explained to the meeting that there was before the House of Commons of Canada a Bill by which the parish of Ste. Magdeleine was proposed to be detached from the County of St. Hyacinthe and annexed to the County of Rouville for electoral purposes, and asked for the opinion of the electors on the project. After deliberation:

"It was unanimously resolved that the electors of Ste. Magdeleine disapprove of the annexation of the parish of Ste. Magdeleine to the County of Rouville for electoral purposes, and that a copy of the present resolution be sent to the representative of the county in the House of Commons to serve all due purposes.

"Napoléon Chabot, Eusèbe Leduc, Eugène Desautels, Elzéar Jacques, Léandre Marois, Charles M. Guilmette, Alexis Blanchette, père, Benoit Cordeau, Adolphe Fredet, Gédéon Blanchette, mayor, T. D. Rainville, F.-X. Hébert, Edouard Vallée, Joseph Lavallée, C. L'Etourneau, Eusèbe Mercier, Joseph Lacombe, Flavie Tétreault, Wilfrid Fréchette, Louis Tétreault, Arthur Guilmette, Joseph Cordeau, Isaac Fréchette, Adolphe Cordeau, Origène Boucher, Joseph Jodoin, Eusèbe Boucher, Edouard Rousseau, Octave Beauregard, Pierre Bernard, J. B. Boulay, Hercule Leduc, Moïse Gauthier, Idège Petit, Horace Gaudet, A. Choquette, Wilfrid Arpin, A. Boisy, Maxime Frédette, J. N. Fontaine, Adélar Lucier, Albert Blanchette, Philéas Lussier, Antoine Leduc, Aléidas Petit, Ludger Fontaine, Magloire Fontaine, Léon Beauregard, Pierre Marcaurèle, père, Pierre Marcaurèle, fils, Elphège Marcaurèle, Pierre Lavallée, Louis Tétreault, père, Elie Lussier, Damase Jodoin, fils, Misaël Palardy, Elphège Brouillet, Pierre Brouillet, Louis Brouillet, Amable Messier, J.-B. Goyait, Eusèbe Mercier, fils, André Mercier, Antoine Cordeau, Adolphe Cordeau, Joseph Berger, Joseph Beauregard, Henri Desmarais, Onésime Chauvais, J.-Bto Ledoux, Michel Dyameau, Joseph Dyameau, Narcisse Choinière, Eusèbe Bernard, Antoine Tétreault, fils, Antoine Arpin, Louis Duchêne, Alexandre Guilmette, Charles Messier, Joseph Desaulniers, fils, Uldéric Danseureau, Régis Delage, père, Amédée Langlois, Louis Fredet, Pierre Bernard, fils, Félix Brodeur, Joseph Leduc, Louis Vasseur, Edouard Lussier, Joseph Gendreau, Paul Duchêne, Louis Duchêne, fils, Almerique Messier, Louis Goderre, Victor Fontaine, Joseph Fontaine, Léandre Bachand, Rodolphe Bachand, Barthélemi Lavimodière, Paul Lavimodière, Hyppolite Bachand, Léopold Gendreau, Ephraïm Leduc, Joseph Leduc, fils de Charles, Louis Langlois, Victor Gaudet, Antoine Tétreault, Louis Dansereau, Michel Palardy, J.-B. Bernard, François Tétreault, Francis Fafard, F.-X. Dansereau, Victor Phaneuf, Candide Codère.

In all 116 electors, residing in the parish of Ste. Magdeleine. If I am not mistaken the list of the electors at the last election contained 130 names. All those who could vote registered their votes. My opponent got seven, and I had a majority of 110 in the parish. As will be seen these signatures were taken immediately after high mass, in the month of May last. There was no canvassing; no one went from house to house soliciting for signatures; and I am confident that if to-day we should circulate a petition of the electors of Ste. Magdeleine to protest against the change, it would be signed by the totality of the electors, Conservatives as well as Liberals, with the exception of one or two per-