

Chairman, we do not want Liberal fiefs in the province of Quebec, and we want Conservative fiefs still less. And I know that after the next elections few of my hon. friends opposite will return to the House of Commons.

Mr. DUPRE (Translation): That is a wish that comes from the bottom of the heart.

Mr. POULIOT (Translation): Absolutely.

Mr. DUMAINE (Translation): I will make an exception in the case of the Hon. Solicitor-General.

I mentioned a moment ago the part of Rouville that remained in Bagot and the hon. Minister of Marine asked me a question. Allow me to tell you frankly that in so far as I am personally concerned, in so far as the county of Bagot is concerned, I am satisfied that such part of Rouville should remain in the county of St. Hyacinthe-Bagot because they are fine agricultural parishes belonging to our district. I do not know why the hon. Minister of Marine should refuse to accept parishes like L'Ange-Gardien, St. Paul-d'Abbotsford, the village of Canrobert, the parish of St. Césaire, also the village of St. Césaire. They are old parishes founded more than a century ago. The people of those parishes are peaceful, well-to-do farmers, excellent citizens, and despite their separation from the remainder of the county we are proud to retain them in our midst.

Mr. Chairman, I do not want to speak at too great length. I have outlined practically all my grievances. I trust the Government will not request the adoption of the bill as presently submitted, I trust changes will be made, that families will be reunited, that so far as possible counties will be left as they are and that justice will be done to the province of Quebec, to both rural and urban representation.

Hon. ALFRED DURANLEAU (Minister of Marine) (Translation): Mr. Chairman, I wish to reply to my hon. friend in respect of the county of Chambly-Rouville. My hon. friend said: The Minister of Marine should have included the parishes of St. Césaire, L'Ange-Gardien, Abbotsford and other parishes in his county. I will point out to my hon. friend that I was not a member of the committee on redistribution. That committee decided after considering all the circumstances that the county of Chambly with that part of the county of Rouville had a sufficient population. The county as now constituted will have a population of 40,000 according to the 1931 census. My hon. friend is probably not aware that the population of the county of Chambly is increasing yearly and that at the present time it exceeds by at

[Mr. Dumaine.]

least 2,000 and 3,000 the population computed at the 1931 census. The hon. member is well aware that the county of Chambly is situated on the south shore, opposite Montreal, and with the means of communication established since last year, thanks to a motor bus service which I succeeded in securing for the south shore, the citizens of that county can now reach the business centre of Montreal within eight minutes. Since the establishment of this motor bus service, the population of the south shore, in the county of Chambly, is increasing daily and, according to the prognostications of business men, the county of Chambly will have within five years a population of from 20,000 to 25,000 souls.

Mr. POULIOT (Translation): Railway revenues are decreasing on account of motor busses.

Mr. DURANLEAU (Translation): The committee was acquainted with all these facts. It considered that the addition of the largest part of the county of Rouville to a county of this importance gave a just representation. My hon. friend says: The population of those parishes—St-Césaire, L'Ange-Gardien, Abbotsford—is a very fine population; we are proud to have those people in the county of St-Hyacinthe. I know the county of Rouville quite well and I agree with what my hon. friend says respecting the qualities of its inhabitants. I was brought up in that district. I was educated there and ties of friendship bind me to several citizens of the district, and had it depended on me only, the problem could have been settled very easily. But I do repeat that the representation given to Chambly-Rouville at the present time is amply sufficient, if one compares it with that of neighbouring counties.

My hon. friend stated a moment ago: Why did they detach certain parishes from St-Hyacinthe and link them with Richelieu? My hon. friend is well aware that Richelieu had a population of only 21,000. It was necessary, in order to give it proper representation, to add certain adjoining parishes to that county, and that was done. According to the bill now being discussed, Richelieu-Verchères has a population of only 35,000, whereas Chambly-Rouville has a population in excess of 40,000 and St-Hyacinthe-Bagot has a population of 42,000 in round figures. I believe the Committee made an equitable division, and I consider that my hon. friend has no reason to complain as he does. My hon. friend has just said that Bagot has a population similar to that of the county of St-Hyacinthe, a population with the same aspirations and customs; that Bagot forms