

Settlers in Rouyn District

Mr. Essiambre makes certain comments about the hon. member for Pontiac (Mr. Bélec) and out of deference to the latter I shall not read them.

If federal inspectors have held inquiries, I do not hesitate to state, under oath, that they did not fulfil their duty, they made false statements and did not endeavour to discover the truth.

First, our member, Mr. Charles Bélec, in the grand speech he recently delivered, was bold enough to state publicly that we had a well equipped hospital; I wish to state, under oath—

Mr. Essiambre uses language which I shall not repeat, however, he absolutely contradicts the statement of the hon. member for Pontiac.

—we have no hospital or even a doctor. Although I am but a poor settler, I shall take the liberty of telling our member, Mr. Charles Bélec—

Neither shall I quote the words Mr. Essiambre uses.

—that he should defend in the house his constituents so that we would not be forced to ask an outside member to request on our behalf charity for our families and ourselves.

Sworn before me, May the second, the year of our Lord, nineteen hundred and thirty-three, at Rouyn, witness,

(Signed) Nelson Pinder,
Commissioner of the Superior Court
of the province of Quebec,
Abitibi district.

I sign,
(Signed) Marcel Essiambre.

I took the trouble to communicate with the Post Office department to verify the statement of Mr. Essiambre, in connection with the mail service; the following is the letter received, dated May 1, last, from Mr. Maurice Grondin, private secretary to the hon. Postmaster General.

Mr. Jean-François Pouliot, M.P.,
House of Commons,
Ottawa.

Dear Mr. Pouliot:

I am instructed by the hon. Mr. Sauvé, to acknowledge receipt of your letter addressed to him on March 28 last, in connection with the mail service at Rivière-Solitaire-Rouyn. There is not yet any post office located at Rivière-Solitaire. A request for one has already been made, however, the necessary arrangements have not, so far, been completed.

As the list of addresses published by the Post Office Department is arranged by each local post office, this will explain why no list of addresses has yet been made. As to the transport of mail, tenders were asked for a semi-weekly service between Rivière-Solitaire and Arntfield. The contract has not yet been awarded.

I remain, sir,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Maurice Grondin,
Private Secretary.

[Mr. Pouliot.]

I think it shameful, sir, that the 2,800 people who reside at Rivière-Solitaire, since October last, have not yet any mail service. Is it to prevent these poor people from broadcasting their legitimate complaints against the way they are treated by the governments and municipalities? If that is the reason there is not only Mr. Essiambre who has to complain. I also received such a complaint from Mr. Joseph-Donat Valiquette in a telegram dated at Rouyn, however, this gentleman resides at at Mont-Bayard, in the neighbourhood of Rivière-Solitaire. This telegram was also sent "C.O.D." on April 27, last.

Mr. Jean-François Pouliot, M.P.
Ottawa, Ont.

My family and myself nothing to eat. Ask you to rise in house and request the government to send food. My children are in a weak state. Writing to-day.

(Signed) J. D. Valiquette.

Sworn Statement

I, Joseph-Donat Valiquette, previously residing in Montreal, father of four children, settled at Rivière-Solitaire, Témiskaming, on October of last year, do hereby swear on the Holy Bible and make the following statement:

I left Montreal on October 6 last to settle at Rivière-Solitaire, under the system which grants \$600 to a settler. After reaching Rivière-Solitaire, I decided to take my lot at Mont-Bayard, which is the next parish, situated 12 miles from Rivière-Solitaire.

My account, I am told, amounts to \$499. Now, the store of Coté, Limited, refuses to give me food for my family and myself. When I left home this morning, all my wife had in the house was half a kettle of beans and bread. We have been living for the last fifteen days on nothing else but boiled beans, without grease or pork.

Our boots are all worn out. We still have flour and beans to last us about three or four days.

I appeal to Mr. Jean-François Pouliot, M.P., to rise in the house and request the government to send us food in order that we may not starve to death.

The following are the names of a few families who, like myself, are starving. These families reside at Mont-Bayard: Messrs. Gravel, Gagnon, and many others whose names I cannot recall, at present.

Sworn before me, this 26th April, 1933, at Rouyn, Quebec.

(Signed) Nelson Pinder,
Commissioner of the Superior Court
for the province of Quebec,
Abitibi district.

I sign,
Joseph-Donat Valiquette,
Mont-Bayard, Témiskaming, Que.
(Signed) J. D. Valiquette.

An hon. MEMBER: Carried.

Mr. POULIOT: Mr. Speaker, I always try to be lenient towards those who ask questions