

*The Address—Mr. George*

was the type of man who would go out of his way to assist his neighbour; and he helped those farmers who, when the price of potatoes was low, had no means of financing. In addition to assisting in building his riding into one of the great potato-producing areas of the country, he was interested in many other businesses. He will be sorrowfully missed; and to his wife and family we extend our sincere sympathy.

In the passing of the late member for Brome-Missisquoi the house has lost a genial member, a man with wide experience in legislative matters. His term as mayor of Farnham and his membership in the Quebec legislature, together with his experience in an important position with the Canadian Pacific Railway, made Mr. Gosselin one of the better informed members of this house. To his wife and family we extend our sincere sympathy.

To the hon. member for St. Jean-Iberville-Napierville (Mr. Cote) I extend my heartiest congratulations. He had an enviable record in municipal and civic affairs before becoming a member of parliament, and his experience in administration will stand him in good stead in his new position. To my good friend and colleague the senior member for Halifax (Mr. Dickey) I extend my most sincere congratulations. All of us in the maritimes and many people elsewhere were very pleased when he was appointed parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Defence Production, and we wish him well. We know he will uphold the best traditions of those other famous Nova Scotians who have preceded him. It was with deep regret we learned that the hon. member for Ottawa West (Mr. McIlraith) had been forced by pressure of other work to resign his position as parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Defence Production, but we are pleased that he is retaining the position of parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. The hon. member has been highly honoured by being named to head the Canadian delegation to the meeting on the Colombo plan at Karachi next month.

The constituency of Westmorland is steeped in history, being the site of some of the earliest settlements in North America. The first European to visit Chignecto, which is the name of the isthmus joining New Brunswick to Nova Scotia, was Diego Homan, a Portuguese, who in 1558 sailed up the bay of Fundy and made a map showing Chignecto bay.

The next known visitors to the bay of Fundy were de Monts and Champlain, who in 1604 visited this area. The first settlement in the Chignecto area is reported to

have been established at Baie Verte in 1619, with the second at Tongue's island about 1672, by one LaValliere. In 1677 Frontenac named LaValliere governor of Acadia, and he governed it from his home on Tongue's island. Thus Chignecto, the exact geographical centre of the maritime provinces, became the capital of Acadia about seventy years before Cornwallis established the settlement of Halifax.

By the treaty of Utrecht in 1713 Acadia was ceded to Great Britain; and since the boundaries were not defined it was not long before the French had a fort at Beausejour and the English one at Fort Lawrence. There were continual skirmishes and friction until in 1755 the real battle for the isthmus took place at what is now Pointe de Bute. Shortly thereafter the French surrendered and Acadia became an English possession with the fall of Louisburg in 1758. The British were commanded by General Monckton, after whom the city of Moncton is named.

It is interesting to note that most of the main settlements in the riding today were in existence at that early date. The village of Upper Sackville, where I live, was known as Tantramar and was an Acadian settlement. It is recorded that on November 15, 1755, the British destroyed the settlement of Tantramar by burning ninety-seven houses and one large mass house, and at the same time most of the villages on the isthmus were destroyed. All this took place while England and France were at peace. The expulsion of the Acadians resulted in around 4,000 people, from what is known as the constituency of Westmorland, being transported out of the country.

One incident is of special interest to us. On October 1, 1755, eighty-six Acadians escaped from Fort Beausejour and today a direct descendant of one of those who escaped, the Reverend Father Clement Cormier, is president of St. Joseph's university at St. Joseph. Today the antagonism of those days is gone and the two great races live together in complete harmony. Father Cormier, in speaking at the opening of the John Clarence Webster wing of the Fort Beausejour museum on August 2, 1949, said in this connection:

I feel that it is on occasions such as this that the descendants of the two races who have once fought for this soil can do most to promote true Canadian citizenship in a spirit of mutual understanding.

Canada owes a debt of gratitude to the late Dr. J. Clarence Webster, of Shediac, formerly chairman of the historic sites and monuments board of Canada, for his efforts in assuring that the history of this section of Canada is so well preserved. It is also