

After three years they were put to work on Prospect highway, close to Halifax. As a man of ambition who had been in captivity for three years, my great-grandfather wanted to get his liberty if he possibly could. While he was working on the highway he saw a small boat off the shore, so he and his three companions took the boat and went out to sea, hoping to meet some American vessel which would take them to the United States. As you know, France and the United States were on good terms at the time. But after eight or nine days, having covered about fifty miles, and being without provisions or water, they had to land at Port Hebert, in Shelburne, the county of my honourable friend the leader of the government. It happened that the first house to which they went for provisions was occupied by the head of the local militia, so they were at once apprehended again and put in jail in Shelburne. But I must add, to the credit of the people of Shelburne, that after these men had been in jail for five or six weeks the local people began to visit them and brought them all kinds of good things. They even circulated a petition, which was sent to the government at Halifax, to release these men from prison so they could make their homes in Shelburne. But before the petition could reach the Governor, an order was despatched to Shelburne with a cutter to take these men back to Halifax. They were taken aboard ship that evening, but it happened to be a windy night and the vessel could not set sail. Well, my grandfather had taken the precaution to carry two bottles of rum with him aboard the cutter, and later when the guards were patrolling the deck he invited them below for a drink. After they had fallen to sleep he jumped to the wharf and made his way across Nova Scotia, landing among the French people at East Pubnico. There he was hired to teach school for the enormous salary of eight dollars a month. In my parish at Church Point there lived a priest from Paris, Father Sigogne. He was the only padre for miles around. Well, in the following spring my grandfather walked the seventy-five miles to my parish and took the oath of allegiance before Father Sigogne, who for the convenience of the people also acted as a justice of the peace. While in my parish my grandfather was again hired to teach school, but this time at ten dollars a month. He was only teaching a short time, however, when he bought a small schooner and started to trade between St. John and the French ports along St. Mary Bay. He then turned to shipbuilding, and built seventeen large schooners. In 1843 Nova Scotia was divided into five districts. Then another change was made, dividing the province into counties. Digby county

was one of them, and three members were appointed to represent it: one for the French municipality of Clare, one for the municipality of Digby and one for the county at large. The same Francois Bourneuf ran for the County of Digby at large, and a brother of my grandfather ran for the municipality of Clare. They were both elected and went to Halifax, where with Joseph Howe they fought for responsible government, which was obtained during that period.

**Some Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Mr. Comeau:** I have not tried to show that my ancestors were men of distinction, but, because we in Nova Scotia were the first to obtain responsible government, I wanted to outline part of our history.

I do not claim that the French were the only great people produced in Nova Scotia, and I shall name some of the prominent men of that province: the Honourable Joseph Howe, Sir Charles Tupper, Sir John Thompson, the Honourable W. S. Fielding, the Honourable Robert Borden and the Honourable George Murray. And there are many others I could mention.

Honourable senators, I should like to join with the preceding speaker—perhaps I should have done so when I began—in offering to His Honour the Speaker my sympathy in his bereavement.

In conclusion I wish to let my friends know, wherever they may be in Nova Scotia, that I am ready to serve them in the Senate of Canada just as I did for forty-two years in the Nova Scotia Legislature. Thank you.

**Some Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Mr. Haig:** Honourable senators, I do not intend to speak this afternoon; but I should like to congratulate the mover (Hon. Mr. Farquhar) and the seconder (Hon. Mr. Comeau) of the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. I was a little prejudiced in favour of the seconder. I have known him about two days longer than the mover, and I might say that he improves on acquaintance.

I intend to speak tomorrow, when I shall refer to certain matters they have mentioned. I do not intend to follow the line taken by either the mover or the seconder, for I have not the honour of coming from a constituency that has a long history, although Manitoba was settled by Lord Selkirk a good many years ago.

I move the adjournment of the debate.

The motion was agreed to, and the debate was adjourned.

The Senate adjourned until tomorrow at 3 p.m.