

*Designation of Nova Scotia*

was because educated people had difficulty speaking English or French; it was probably a custom at the time.

I have read most of the works of Samuel Pepys in that 1659-60 to 1669 period. In those days it was common to use a Latin description for titles and such things, not because people could not speak English or French or because educated people spoke Latin. Certainly in the early part of the seventeenth century in England people did not speak Latin.

It is interesting to look at the map of Quebec. There have been many recent name changes in the northern portion of le Nouveau Québec. I should like to refer to this business of suddenly deciding to change a name which has been in existence for 300 years, as is the case of la Nouvelle-Écosse, and suddenly saying—

[*Translation*]

I intend to spend a holiday with my family in Nova Scotia. It would not sound right in French if I said: "Bon, je vais avec ma famille passer mes vacances en *Nova Scotia*."

[*English*]

It is not really what bilingualism is supposed to mean in Canada. I think it is unreasonable to ask for this, as the hon. member is doing in good faith. I am not suggesting the idea does not make some sense, but it is unreasonable to ask people all over the French-speaking world to suddenly change their atlases and their customary way of referring to the province of Nova Scotia. It gets into this business of "franglais" which, as the hon. member knows, is resisted rather strongly in many French-speaking countries. It will not work. In fact, name changes will lead us in Canada into more difficulties than can readily be seen.

[*Translation*]

Considering the systematic effort of the Government of Canada to make our federal institutions bilingual ever since the enactment of the Official Languages Act in 1968, we do not hesitate to describe as regressive this attempt at "unilinguization", Mr. Speaker, it is on purpose that I used the word "unilinguization". I could even have termed it an attempt at English "unilinguization".

● (1630)

[*English*]

I would point out to the hon. member who proposes this idea that one of the very important points against his bill in the province of Nova Scotia today is that there is a fairly substantial French-speaking minority. This morning when I was looking at the figures I noted that the minority had declined in only five years in the 1970s from about 6 per cent of the population to approximately 5 per cent. In other words, it is already difficult for French-speaking Canadians to survive in Nova Scotia as French-speaking Canadians, for all kinds of reasons. It seems to me we would be putting, unnecessarily, one more nail in their language coffin. For all of recent history, and going back to the time when the Acadians came back, I guess in the early part of the nineteenth century—

**Mr. Nowlan:** In 1755.

**Mr. Stollery:** They didn't come back in 1755, that is when they went out. They did not get back until quite a long time after that. We could discuss at length what the province was called before the Acadians were expelled. I am sure that since they have been back they have always referred to it as Nova Scotia.

**Mr. Nowlan:** It was Acadie.

**Mr. Stollery:** They have always referred to it as Nouvelle-Écosse.

**Mr. Nowlan:** Acadie.

**Mr. Stollery:** I am saying since they came back; it was Acadia that they were expelled from. As the hon. member knows, the people who were actually expelled were the Acadians who lived in the French Shore, who had agreed that they were the treaty Acadians.

If I recollect my Francis Parkman, whom I have not read for many years, they were the treaty Acadians who then got into some trouble because of various New England versus Quebec arguments. Finally, they were expelled. At that time they probably called themselves Acadians but, in fact, they were treaty Acadians. The French had ceded the territory to the New Englanders.

I suspect that after they were expelled in 1755 and came back, up until 1930 they were still drifting back to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. There is no question that ever since then they have had a very difficult time maintaining their culture and language. I know the hon. member supports the efforts to maintain the very ancient French culture of Nova Scotia, but I think changing the official name of Nova Scotia would also make it just a little more difficult for those people.

As I said, Mr. Speaker, I think the idea has some merit. I also think there will be some problems. There are many name places for which we use English words which in fact are not English—there are hundreds of them. I think to get into the business of legislating what a place is to be called and changing traditional practices would be counterproductive.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Marcel Prud'homme (Saint-Denis):** Mr. Speaker, if I had not known the sponsor of this bill for many years and if I had not known his father before him for a great many years, I would be very suspicious of his intentions. The advantage of sitting in this House for a long time is perhaps that you get to know well each member on both sides of the House and you can tell the difference between those who understand the spirit which must prompt us Canadians, and I am not speaking about French Canadians or English Canadians, but about all of us Canadians in this House. Some have reached a higher degree of Canadianism than others, but I have every confidence that one day, we shall all have reached the high degree