

*Redistribution*

retain a clear memory of that great Canadian.

Nevertheless, I would like to mention one small thing. During the election held on February 22, 1887, Sir Wilfrid Laurier's opponent in Quebec East constituency was lawyer F. X. Drouin. Later, in 1917, Laurier's opponent in the same Quebec East county was Mr. F. O. Drouin, son of the former.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the candidate of 1887, lawyer F. I. Drouin, and the candidate of 1917, lawyer F. O. Drouin, were respectively the grandfather and the father of lawyer François Drouin who is now the general electoral officer for the province of Quebec and a member of the readjustment commission.

I hope, Mr. Speaker, that this historical fact will prompt lawyer François Drouin to try and retain the name of this constituency.

I would not want to give an historical account of Quebec East without recalling the leadership of Right Hon. Ernest Lapointe in that county.

In August 1919, Mr. Mackenzie King became leader of the liberal party, and in the fall of that year, another great Canadian figure appeared on the political scene, Mr. Ernest Lapointe, elected member for Quebec East, at a by-election.

Re-elected at the federal election of December 1921, he entered the federal cabinet of which he remained a member until his death, in 1941, that is during nearly for 21 years.

In my opinion we have no right to minimize the significance of such a political career. Lapointe is a name which is linked to the constituency of Quebec East; it is another of those national glories to which as French Canadians we must remain deeply attached.

Ernest Lapointe was the true champion of Canadian unity. He advocated continuously the unity of Canada, denouncing in very strong terms any attempt to break up that unity.

I should like to quote what Mr. Mackenzie King said after the death of Ernest Lapointe.

I like to think that we shared Laurier's succession. Upon me was bestowed the great honour of succeeding Mr. Laurier as head of the party, he (Lapointe) had the honour of succeeding Mr. Laurier as representative of the historic constituency of Quebec East and the distinction of becoming his people's spokesman to the rest of Canada.

I trust that Mr. Ernest Lapointe's value was so noteworthy that the name of the constituency he represented so valorously for 22 years in this house, will not disappear from the electoral map.

[Mr. Duquet.]

I suggest that that is an excellent opportunity to pay tribute to his illustrious son, his Excellency Mr. Hugues Lapointe, present lieutenant-governor of the province of Quebec.

In concluding, I should like to recall a period very much closer to us, no doubt, and quite significant, I admit, but how rewarding for all Canadians: that of Mr. Louis St. Laurent, who was elected on February 9, 1942 and who also remained the hon. member for Quebec East for 15 years.

To recall here the highlights of the career of the Right Hon. Louis St. Laurent would, I am sure, offend the modesty of this great Canadian who, fortunately, is still among us.

Yet he is another prominent figure of Canadian politics who, in particularly difficult times, showed the outstanding qualities of a statesman and succeeded in leading the country with unequalled dignity.

Therefore, it is easy to understand that Mr. St. Laurent still enjoys great prestige.

Quebec East will always remember Louis St-Laurent with fervent devotion.

Feelings of admiration for Mr. Louis St-Laurent have so often been warmly expressed throughout the world, in Canada and especially in Quebec East, that to add to them would be overdoing it; possibly because he is so much closer to us, we should keep the name of Quebec East closely knit with the career of that great statesman, the Right Hon. Louis St. Laurent.

Mr. Speaker, if you will allow me, I should like to read a letter Right Hon. Louis St. Laurent sent me on February 16 last. I quote:

Dear Mr. Duquet,

I congratulate you for endeavouring to prevent the name of the Quebec East riding from being changed to that of Limoilou.

As you know, that riding has always been called Quebec East, ever since the first elections after Confederation. Only three members have represented it from November 28, 1877 to the general elections of March 31, 1958. This is probably a record of electoral stability over 81 years. Sir Wilfrid Laurier was the member for Quebec East until his death in 1919, having been elected in two by-elections and nine general elections. He was replaced by Hon. Ernest Lapointe who was also elected in two by-elections and six general elections.

After the death of Hon. Ernest Lapointe, in November 1941, I was asked to replace him as Minister of Justice and I was elected to the House of Commons in a by-election, on February 9, 1942, and re-elected in four general elections.

I was very proud to have had as predecessors Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Hon. Ernest Lapointe and I am convinced that you are yourself prouder