

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, January 13, 1954

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

VACANCIES

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the house that I have received communications from several members notifying me that the following vacancies have occurred in the representation, viz.:

Of Joseph-Celestin Nadon, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Gatineau, by decease.

Of Paul-Emile Cote, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Verdun, consequent upon his acceptance of an office of emolument under the crown.

Accordingly I have issued my warrant to the chief electoral officer to make out new writs of election for the said electoral districts.

(Translation):

THE LATE J. C. NADON

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MEMBER FOR GATINEAU

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, you have just officially acquainted us with the fact that it is now necessary to elect a new member for the electoral district of Gatineau. A few hours after we had separated to spend Christmas and New Year's day with our families, we heard the sad news of the death of our colleague, Joseph Celestin Nadon, member for Gatineau.

This premature and unexpected death, which took place on December 17 last, has not only deeply affected the members of his family and his electors, but, no doubt, every member of this house who had come to know Mr. Nadon and to appreciate him since his election to this house in 1949.

Mr. Nadon was born at Ste. Famille d'Aumond, on January 11, 1899.

At Maniwaki, where he spent the greatest part of his life, and throughout Gatineau county, he took an active part in numerous social organizations where he always distinguished himself by his activity and devotion. He was elected to the Quebec legislative assembly in 1939 and re-elected in 1944. In October 1949 when a by-election was held

he was elected to the House of Commons and re-elected at the last general election.

Mr. Nadon was appreciated by the electors of Gatineau county as well as by all those who knew him for his untiring activity, his good judgment and his great devotion to the welfare of his fellow citizens. He was a hard and conscientious worker whose persevering efforts brought him great success in business; in politics he always showed the same activity and the same steadfastness of purpose, never neglecting a request or sparing his efforts to render all possible services.

My first personal contacts with Mr. Nadon go back to the period when he was mayor of Maniwaki and I was practising law in Quebec city. We spent long months together to straighten out property deeds at Maniwaki. It was land that had been part of an Indian reserve and that had been surrendered to the crown. The surrender had naturally been made with the agreement of the federal government and the latter had issued deeds to the occupants. Now, as a result of a decision of the privy council in a case that will be remembered by several members who invoked its authority, it was decided that when land was abandoned by an Indian band, the right of property passed to the crown in the right of the province where the said lands were located. That caused rather deep anxiety among the land owners of Maniwaki. Through untiring efforts that lasted several months, Mr. Nadon succeeded in obtaining the co-operation of the two governments to settle the matter for those land owners and ensure them that the validity of their deeds could never be contested.

That is only one example of Mr. Nadon's efforts on behalf of his fellow citizens.

I am sure that all hon. members of the house join me in paying tribute to a man who faithfully devoted himself to the welfare of all his fellow citizens and in expressing our sincere and deep sympathy to his wife and children.

(Text):

Hon. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition): I know that every member of the house, Mr. Speaker, will join with the remarks of the Prime Minister in extending to Madame Nadon, and the family of the late member for Gatineau, the sympathy of all those with