

are not responsible for the present shape or outline of the county of Bellechasse.

My hon. friend for Dorchester pretended to be shocked the other evening because two parishes are half in Bellechasse and half in Dorchester. He should know why this situation exists. These are two comparatively new parishes which the diocesan authorities placed astride the boundary, on both sides, if I may express myself thus. The parish of Honfleur which was settled about 1904 or 1905 is composed of part of the parishes of St-Gervais and St-Lazare, in the county of Bellechasse, and of part of the parishes of St-Claire and St-Anselme, in the county of Dorchester. St-Sabine was created about 1912 and is composed of parts of the townships of Bellechasse and Roux in the county of Bellechasse, and of part of the townships of Langevin and Ware in the county of Dorchester.

Provincially, as my friend from Dorchester knows—he is acquainted with the administrative customs and administrative law of the province of Quebec—each county is a civil municipality administered by a county council composed of the various parishes in the county. After the creation of these two parishes straddling the boundary of Bellechasse and Dorchester, it became necessary to include these two parishes in a civil county municipality, in order that the mayors of the new parishes may form part of a county council. They could be put either in Dorchester or Bellechasse. The Quebec legislature decided to place them both, in their entirety, in Bellechasse, and the boundary line was corrected accordingly.

The same thing happened as to the boundary between Bellechasse and Montmagny. I believe the member for Stanstead (Mr. Hackett) raised this question a couple of days ago. There again, they created parishes straddling the boundary line of Bellechasse and Montmagny. The parishes are known as St-Euphémie and St-Fabien. And, in order to make the boundaries of the civil municipalities conform to those of the religious parishes, the Quebec legislature was only required to make some very slight boundary changes between Bellechasse and Montmagny.

The hon. member for Dorchester is shocked over the fact that the parishes of St-Sabine and Honfleur are divided between Dorchester and Bellechasse. Why did he not correct that in the bill which we are discussing today? I note that in this bill the situation created in 1924—possibly earlier, I do not know, but let us say under the redistribution of 1924—is left as it was: these two parishes remain divided between Bellechasse and Dor-

chester. The hon. member for Dorchester stated the other day that he appeared before the committee, that he told them what to do, that he insisted on the changes and alterations he wanted in his constituency. Since he considers the division of these two parishes between two neighbouring counties abnormal, why did he not ask to have this state of affairs changed, that this abnormal situation be remedied, when he appeared before the committee? He merely had to ask the committee to make the federal boundaries conform to the provincial limits.

I did not appear before the committee on redistribution, I did not even go into the room where the committee met. The members of the committee never consulted me respecting the changes they wanted to make in connection with the county of Bellechasse. I asked for nothing, I made no bargain and I agreed to nothing. I have a too wholesome respect for the feelings of the people.

I share many of the views and ideas of my friend from Montmagny (Mr. LaVergne), but I certainly do not agree with him when he says: "It matters little where they vote, so long as they vote!"

Mr. LAPOINTE Hear, hear.

Mr. BOULANGER: I believe the people have not only the right to vote but that they have also the right to vote at home; they have a right to vote for somebody they know and to vote where their vote will be most effective. I certainly did not ask for the parishes or the municipalities of the counties of Dorchester, Lévis and Montmagny that are being annexed to Bellechasse. My friend from Montmagny says: "It matters little? What has that to do with those people, so long as they vote"? I ask myself, for instance, if that would be very consoling for the inhabitants of the municipalities of St-Henri, the village of St-Henri, Rivière-Boyer, and St-Jean-Chrysostôme, if they were told: "What does it matter to you if you vote in Bellechasse or in Lévis? You do not lose your right to vote." As I stated a moment ago, the people of these four municipalities, Rivière-Boyer, St-Henri Village, St-Henri-de-Lauzon and St-Jean-Chrysostôme, have formed part of the county of Dorchester, from 1791 to 1853, and since then they form part of the county of Lévis. They never had anything in common with the county of Bellechasse, they never had any connection whatever with the county of Bellechasse, they do not form part of the same judicial district, their registry office is at Lévis, there is absolutely no link between them and the people of Bellechasse.