

Redistribution

In 1874, after the Canadian Pacific scandal, Sir John A. Macdonald resigned and Mr. Mackenzie took over the direction of the government. Following the dissolution of the houses, elections were set for January 1874.

Hon. Isidore Thibaudeau was then chosen as candidate against notary A. G. Tourangeau, the latter withdrawing as a candidate on January 18. On the 22nd, during the nomination, hon. Isidore Thibaudeau was elected by acclamation and became the third federal member for Quebec East.

Hon. Thibaudeau was a distinguished personality. He had been a member of the Brown-Dorion cabinet and after that of the J. Sanfield-Macdonald-Dorion cabinet.

In 1877, hon. Mr. Thibaudeau resigned as the member for Quebec East to enable right hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who had just been defeated in Drummond-Arthabaska, to seek election in Quebec East, thus facilitating Laurier's return to the Mackenzie cabinet, to which he had been appointed in October, 1877.

Thus, on November 28, 1877, Laurier became the fourth member for Quebec East. Mr. Speaker, it turned out that he retained that seat for 42 years, until his death in 1919. For 32 years, he was leader of the Liberal party and for 15 years, prime minister of Canada. In the course of his brilliant career he won 11 consecutive elections in Quebec East.

On June 20, 1882, and March 5, 1891, in spite of overwhelming Conservative victories—

● (3:50 p.m.)

Mr. Grégoire: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

I wonder whether all this discussion is in order. The hon. member has been talking for 16 minutes and we have now reached 1882, having started at 1860. If all hon. members insist on reviewing the history of their riding—in such detail, the house will not be able to discuss the exact matter under consideration, that is the electoral redistribution. Since we have only 6 days for the 265 constituencies of the country, and that, after 16 minutes, we are only in 1882 as far as the constituency of Quebec East is concerned, I do not see how we will be able to consider all constituencies.

I would suggest that the hon. member be called to order so that those with real redistribution problems be given an opportunity to discuss them in these six days.

Mr. Duquet: Mr. Speaker, on the point of order I will tell the hon. member for Lapointe that if he were the member for Quebec East and if his riding were as historical as Quebec East, he would talk for 40 minutes instead of 16.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Duquet: I have only five or six minutes left, Mr. Speaker, and I should like to continue my speech.

Mr. Speaker: I still wish to point out to the hon. member for Quebec East, however, that I partly agree with the objection just made by the hon. member for Lapointe.

In my opinion, the question now is to determine whether the name of his riding should be changed or not. I doubt that it is in order for him to recount the whole history of his riding, and I would ask him to pass on as quickly as possible to the specific point we have to consider.

Mr. Duquet: Mr. Speaker, I ask your indulgence for a reason I gave earlier: it is not hon. members of the house whom I wish to convince that the name of Quebec East should be kept but the members of the commission who made the report.

I feel that my present speech may convince them of the importance of keeping the name of Quebec East and I ask your permission to continue, Mr. Speaker, as I only need about ten minutes more.

Mr. Speaker, to describe the whole career—

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member needs another ten minutes this means half an hour per speaker and there are 16 to come. We will never finish tonight.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member said he would need another five minutes. I hope he will soon come to the point and be able to condense somewhat his remarks.

Hon. Martial Asselin (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member for Lapointe should allow the hon. member for Quebec East to continue. It is the maiden speech of the former in the house and I think he should be allowed to go on with his historical account. In our opinion, this would seem quite feasible.

Mr. Duquet: I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It would be superfluous to relate the whole career of Sir Wilfrid Laurier; after all, he has only been dead for 47 years and we still