

*Redistribution*

In my opinion, this fact alone would be reason enough to prompt the commissioners to consider our objection to the proposed change in name and to maintain the designation of Quebec East.

The new electoral map of the province of Quebec now includes a new riding also called Limoilou. The geographical boundaries do not square at all with those of the federal riding. The population in the new constituency proposed by the commission and to be called Limoilou is not the same as in the provincial riding. This is a further reason for maintaining the name of Quebec East. Any possible confusion would thus be avoided between the provincial riding and the federal riding which bear the same name while having different geographical boundaries.

I am also told that in preparing their report, the commissioners sought to suppress double names. Even in such circumstances, Mr. Speaker, I respectfully submit that, in the particular case of Quebec East, it would be possible to overlook this consideration.

In spite of all their good will, the Quebec commissioners were unable to follow this rule, and, in several cases, they maintained some of those hyphenated names such as Côte-Nord, Lac-Saint-Jean, Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, Mont-Royal, Louis-Hébert. These are hyphenated names and, in addition, the name of Trois-Rivières was kept. Now, if the name of the Trois-Rivières riding has been strictly maintained on account of the city of that name, I wonder why the name of Quebec East should be changed, a name designating the oldest constituency in Quebec city and, moreover, identifying it with this historic city, the capital city of the province of Quebec.

Besides, in the other provinces, the commissioners were not so parsimonious in this connection. In the province of Newfoundland are found the names of Bonavista-Twillingate, Trinity-Conception, Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador, Humber-St. George's. In Ontario, what is there to say about the names of these seven York ridings ending with East, West, South, Centre, North, etc. In Nova Scotia, you have the names of Antigonish-Guysborough, Cape Breton North and Victoria and many others. The same holds true in Alberta.

All the hyphenated names I have referred to are much more difficult to spell and pronounce than Quebec East. The elimination of hyphenated names therefore cannot justify the elimination of Quebec East.

[Mr. Duquet.]

Mr. Speaker, my fourth objection is that the people of Quebec East riding object. The people of Quebec East are insistent upon the maintenance of the name of the riding. I should like to call attention to the intervention of hundreds of constituents who have indicated to me their satisfaction with, and approval of, my objection. Indeed, I have received a multitude of representations on this question. Furthermore, at a meeting held in the constituency on January 31, those present unanimously asked that I oppose the change. I take this opportunity to thank my constituents and to congratulate them on their position on this question, which is indicative of their regard for the illustrious figures by whom Quebec East has been represented in the past.

I hope, Mr. Speaker, that the members of the commission will not remain indifferent to the opinion of a population of 50,000 voters.

As a last argument, I would like to bring forward the historical fact. In order to justify this motion, could I make a brief historical account of the riding of Quebec East.

On March 30, 1860, the riding of Quebec East was established by an act ratified on April 23, 1860, under the government of the hon. Cartier. My riding is thus 106 years old.

The first election in the riding took place on May 14, 1860. Notary Gabriel Huot became its first member, serving in the federal as well as the provincial government until July 21, 1867, under the government of Sir John A. Macdonald.

Notary Huot gave up his provincial mandate and was elected by acclamation, becoming the first federal member for Quebec East; he gave up this office in 1870 to become Postmaster of Quebec city.

There had to be a by-election and on July 14 and 15, 1870, Notary Tourangeau became the second federal member for Quebec East. Notary Tourangeau was re-elected by acclamation in the general election of July 29, 1872.

Mr. Speaker, I must also point out the presence of Mr. Pelletier as provincial member for Quebec East during the same period, from May 1873 to January 1874. Mr. Pelletier was representing at the same time the riding of Kamouraska in the federal government.

Mr. Pelletier had a brilliant career. Senator in 1877, he was also a minister in Mr. Mackenzie's cabinet, speaker of the Senate in 1896 and, in 1908, lieutenant-governor of the province of Quebec until his death in 1911.