

stood that there was to be a change in the personnel of that government, and they were not willing to entrust the new government or the old with more money than was absolutely unavoidable. They had the appropriations up to the 1st July and for reasons which satisfied themselves, the opposition were not willing that the government should have them for any longer period.

The next subject taken up by my hon. friend was the Manitoba school question, and in connection with that he mentioned that it had been expected that federation would put an end to religious cries for ever. I think nobody was so sanguine as to think that federation or anything else would put an end to all religious cries, but one object at all events, was to allay the religious difficulties which then existed between Upper and Lower Canada, and it was expected that the evils then prevailing would be put an end to, so far as such evils can be put an end to by legislation. Let me say further, that federation was perfectly successful in accomplishing that object, and we had no religious cries mingled with the politics of this country for many years after confederation. Every one who has studied history,—and there are men in this House who took part in the proceedings of that day—knows very well that feeling ran high in the province of Canada with regard to such questions as education, before confederation. No doubt, the difficulty which arose from that circumstance was one of the reasons which led to federation being thought of, and to all parties in Upper and Lower Canada concurring in it. It was successful, I say, and there was hardly any interruption to the peace until the New Brunswick school case occurred. That was settled. The next time a religious cry came in question, was when it was brought forward by my Conservative opponents in Ontario, for the purpose of getting by means of it votes against the government of which I was premier. The first time that that endeavour was made, the cry was that the government was not sufficiently favourable to Roman Catholics—that we did not give them offices enough—that we did not give them all the legislation they were entitled to; and we had to debate all that before our people. We had to show to our Roman Catholic friends that we had given them a fair share of the good things that were going, and that we had given them all the legislation

to which they were entitled. Probably nineteen-twentieths of them were perfectly satisfied with the explanations made, and we lost but a very small fraction of the Liberal Catholic vote at that election. The cry having been unsuccessful, the same party at the next general election, or the one following it, raised the opposite cry—raised the cry that we were slaves of the Roman Catholic clergy—that we were giving the Roman Catholics too many offices—that they had entirely too much power and patronage, and that we had been giving them school legislation for several years to which they were not entitled, and which was unfair to the general community. All this we were able to answer. We had to fight for our lives every time, but we fought successfully. At every election since the same cry has been raised to some extent and in some quarters. My hon. friend's party, as represented in Ontario politics, is the party that has raised the religious cry more since confederation than it has been raised, unless you consider the Manitoba school question an exception.

My hon. friend has been endeavouring to point out inconsistencies on the part of some of the leading members of the Liberal party. He says at one time an hon. member of that party said one thing in one place and another thing in another place. I am not concerned about all that. It was discussed at the elections which have just passed. Everything of that nature was brought forward, and was pressed at meeting after meeting. Our people were fully informed as to it all, and the majority of them, notwithstanding, manifested by their votes, and the result of their votes, that they gave their confidence to the Liberal party and their leader. The important question will, by-and-by, be how the question is to be solved now, how the evil is to be cured which caused so much trouble during the elections. I am not going to anticipate that question by any observations I may make now. It must be the wish of everybody that some solution should be found which would be fairly satisfactory, which we might all be able to defend if we chose to defend, and which would be for the advantage of the country generally. When the scheme is propounded, if it is attacked at all, I shall be ready to defend it if I should then be here.

Then my hon. friend referred to the tariff.