

Mr. SHARPE (N. Ontario). Why did you not offer any opposition to them before?

Mr. TOBIN. This is the first time, as far as I know, that the Militia Department has proposed any expenditures for automobiles.

Mr. SHARPE (N. Ontario). Is the automobile item the only one you object to?

Mr. TOBIN. I object to this one and to other items also. You know, Mr. Chairman, what denunciations of militia expenditures were made by hon. gentlemen opposite who came from the province of Quebec, when they sat to the Speaker's left. I am sure also that you, Mr. Chairman, if you were not in the Chair to-night, would be asking the present Minister of Militia not to increase that expenditure.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). I want to thank the hon. gentleman for giving me the explanation of why I am so very popular in the province of Quebec. As long as my opponents roundly condemn me I am happy, and from what the hon. member says I have been denounced from one end of the province of Quebec to the other.

Mr. TOBIN. Yes, by your own friends.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). When my Liberal friends or my Tory friends meet me I am happy to receive them with open arms. I am satisfied that the attempts to arouse prejudice in the province of Quebec against ministers from the province of Ontario are simply taken by the people of that province, no matter how enthusiastically and earnestly those attempts are urged from the platform, with a grain of salt, and very little attention is paid to them.

Mr. TOBIN. I would like the present Minister of Militia, when he said he did not blame the Nationalist ministers on account of making appeals to race and religion in the county of Drummond and Arthabaska, to have been present at one of those meetings and heard the language used regarding himself, as well as regarding the Liberal party. I can assure him that had he been there he would not have felt very well satisfied.

Maintenance of military properties, \$39,000.

Mr. H. BOULAY (Rimouski) (Translation): Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for Richmond and Wolfe is not entirely in accord with the facts when he states that we raised the race and creed cry during the election in Drummond and Arthabaska. I say that, on the contrary, that policy was followed by himself and his friends. From 1896 to 1911, they constantly appealed to sectional and racial prejudices. We had to fight them for fifteen years on that ground.

Mr. TOBIN.

Mr. TOBIN. Mr. Chairman, I think that the hon. gentleman is out of order; he is quite astray from the item under discussion.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I must say that the hon. gentleman is answering the remarks made by the previous speaker. Once the door is open it is pretty hard for me to close it. I hope that every member will keep to the item under discussion.

Mr. BOULAY (Translation): I regret that the hon. member for Richmond should have taken such a stand. He stated, among other things, that we had vowed that never Messrs. Hughes and Sproule would be members of the government. I never said anything to that effect in my constituency. I deny outright having ever said anything of the kind. I had no business to say so, for this very good reason that I knew I would not be called upon to lead the government of the country.

These gentlemen have their opinion as I have mine, and these opinions are entitled to respect. As far as the militia expenses are concerned, I agree with the objections raised against those expenses. The policy upon which we have made the last election in 1911 was partly on the reduction of the expenses for the militia. We specially objected to the establishment of the naval service, and we said also that the expenses for the militia were too high. We said that in 1896 the Liberal-Conservative party was expending only \$1,500,000 for the militia, whereas in 1911, under a Liberal government, those expenses were of \$7,000,000. As far as I am concerned, I am quite willing to take the responsibility of my pre-election statement and to renew them before the House. Those expenses are too high and, were the hon. Minister of Militia ready to reduce them, I would surely give him my hearty support.

I say as I already said in my county, that the militia appropriations are too high as compared with what we give to the agriculture. Neither can I approve the item for automobiles. I fail to see their usefulness in the military service. I am quite willing to condemn now such a policy, the same as I did during the last elections, according to our programme. I do not deny what I said then, and I say that the hon. minister should reduce this expense.

Mr. TOBIN. Will the hon. minister allow me to put a question?

If I understood him right, he thinks that the expenses for the militia are too high.

Mr. BOULAY (Translation). Yes, they are too high; and they were thus been increased under the Liberal government. I am ready to condemn such an expense, even when it is made by the present government.