

Mr. TOBIN. I am somewhat surprised to see these increases in the expenditures of the Militia Department over what they were last year without hearing from our good friends on the other side, especially from the province of Quebec. During the election in Drummond and Arthabaska, I was in that part of the province, and there the Minister of Public Works, with tears in his eyes, told the farmers what a bad government we had in Ottawa, especially since Sir Wilfrid Laurier went into power in 1896, because he had doubled and trebled the expenditure in the Militia Department. He said the Minister of Agriculture was spending only about 15 cents per head in the interests of the farmers, while the Laurier government was spending on the militia \$1.50 a head, and still they were going to build a navy which would cost this country fifty or sixty million dollars. I do not see the Minister of Public Works in his seat to-night; nor do I see my intelligent young friend, the member for Nicolet (Mr. Lamarche). He was one of the men I happened to meet on the public platform in Drummond and Arthabaska. I have a great deal of respect for my hon. friend the Minister of Militia, because I think he is honest and takes a great interest in the militia of this country. But during the last election what did these hon. gentlemen say in the province of Quebec? They said: They were not going to have Sam Hughes and Dr. Sproule. Is Mr. Borden going to surround himself with these Orangemen who appeal to race and religion in the province of Ontario? We would never belong to such a party, a party that voted for the Autonomy Bills which took separate schools from the French minority in the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan. That is the language we heard. I am sorry the Minister of Public Works is not in his seat to-night, because no man in this Dominion has made more appeals to race and religion or has created such feeling among our young French-Canadians, among our young French priests, that they feel that the English-speaking Protestants of Ontario want to do away with our religion. That is the way they talk to the young men in the district of Quebec; I did not know what work the Postmaster General did in the province of Quebec; I did not meet him on the public platform; but I have read his paper, 'L'Evenement.' Hon. gentlemen have read that paper and they know what appeals our opponents have been making in the province of Quebec. Now these hon. gentlemen come here and tell us that we must forget everything, and that we must not speak about race or religion. But, Mr. Chairman, the Liberal members from Quebec never appealed to race or religion.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. TOBIN. Hon. gentlemen on the other side may laugh, but I represent a county, the population of which to the extent of 75 or 80 per cent are French speaking people. Five per cent of the balance are probably English-speaking Catholics, and the remainder are English-speaking Protestants. Well the votes of 75 per cent of the English-speaking Protestants go to the present member for Richmond and Wolfe because he does not make racial or religious appeals.

Mr. BENNETT (Simcoe). Oh, oh.

Mr. TOBIN. The hon. member may laugh, but we know him of old. I will say, as my leader always says to that hon. gentleman, that we do not pay any attention to him. We have got to that stage with the hon. gentleman, and I am sure I shall not pay any attention to him to-night.

Mr. BRADBURY. We have had enough of this kind of stuff in the House, and I appeal to the Chairman for his ruling.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I think the hon. member for Richmond and Wolfe is wandering a little from the item under discussion, and I take the liberty of drawing his attention to the fact.

Mr. TOBIN. I bow to your ruling, Mr. Chairman, and will confine myself to the subject under discussion.

Mr. BENNETT (Simcoe). I made your leader sit up last night did I not?

Mr. TOBIN. Let me tell the hon. gentleman that the right hon. leader of the opposition is known too well throughout this country for the people to pay any heed to anything the hon. member for East Simcoe may say concerning him. As far as the province of Quebec is concerned, the leader of the opposition stands with the people today as he has never stood before. Now let me tell the Minister of Militia that the farmers of this country will ask how it is the Militia Department can buy automobiles. It is really too bad for us to have got to that stage in this country, when the public moneys could be expended to far better advantage. I would like to see the minister cut the item for automobiles out. I do not blame him for paying 20 per cent or probably \$3,000 more than he should have paid. I know him too well to think that he would desire to make a dollar out of any transaction, but let me tell him that the farmers of Canada object to paying for such expenditures as this. Why does not the hon. member for L'Islet (Mr. Paquet), who has been denouncing the militia in the province of Quebec, get up in this House and oppose these items?