

the newspapers, especially the Liberal newspapers, that the Conservatives were in favour of spending these sums of money on the military, while our good friends the Liberals were in favour of everything going on as quietly as possible. We admit beyond peradventure that the world as it is is all wrong. We could save vast sums of money if nobody would die, and great remedies could be applied instantly if we had the power of applying them, but we have not. I would ask the hon. gentleman from Maisonneuve (Mr. Verville), who has expressed such admirable sentiments, if he will remember that it has taken us one thousand years to recover from the fact that Rome was not fit to hold off the barbarians. If in A.D. 476 the Western Empire of Rome had been trained in a military way instead of humbugging in other ways as she did she would have preserved the learning of the west, and preserved the power of the west, and we would not have had the Lombards, the Visigoths, the Ostrogoths and the Vandals, and all the rest of them destroying the learning that had been accumulated for a thousand years. We must have some common sense in this matter. Let me remind the hon. gentleman (Mr. Verville) that we are not training our sons or our daughters either to shoot each other; we are training them to hit a mark, and if it should so chance that some one insists upon being shot because they are going to take away that which belongs to us, then we will shoot them, but that is only an incident. There are benefits in a military training which everybody will concede. It makes the young chap erect, well set-up, and it teaches him discipline, which nine times out of ten he does not learn at home. It is a grave mistake for any one to suppose that all the expenditure of money, under the conditions that exist in the world to-day, for the purposes of self-defence, is wasted, because it is not. Ten minutes' study of history will show that if the ancient empire of Rome had been able to defend herself we would have been two thousand years ahead of where we are now, instead of being two thousand years behind. Then, with regard to the automobiles; I am not much of a soldier myself, I would not kill a chicken if I could help it, but I have followed the question sufficiently to know that the automobile is the most economical means of handling a transport service in all the armies of the world. The Americans, the Australians, the Germans, the French, the English, all have automobiles attached to their military forces, and why should we not be up to date? Do we want to lag behind? Certainly not. Everybody admits, and that is the point I want to make, that

Mr. BURNHAM.

expenditure in a military way is something that is to be regretted, but it is something that has to be done.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). I am surprised to find that my hon. friend from Kamouraska (Mr. Lapointe) who in his youth was trained as a cadet, and who has all the appearance of a bold soldier laddie, stand up here and show his lack of appreciation of the tact of the gentleman who had the honour of defeating him and his friends in the contest in Drummond-Arthabaska. What are the facts? In 1896 the Liberal-Conservative party had brought in a small appropriation of three million dollars for rifles with which to arm the troops in expectation of a war in which Britain and France would be engaged on one side against other continental powers. These hon. gentlemen opposite then pursued the same policy as they are evidently laying out to pursue to-day. Let me tell these gentlemen that I welcome their appeal to prejudices on every platform and in every riding in the Dominion. In 1896 they went through the province of Quebec telling the people that if these rifles were bought by the Conservatives their sons would be disembowelled.

An hon. MEMBER. Who said that?

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). The Liberals said it in the province of Quebec in 1896.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). Do the hon. gentlemen opposite deny it?

Mr. LAPOINTE (Kamouraska). Yes.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). Then it was that the Liberals appealed to the mothers of the province of Quebec not to let their sons fight for the empire in all parts of the world. That appeal had its effect, but time rolled on and Drummond and Arthabaska fell vacant and the Liberal-Conservative party—

An hon. MEMBER. Kept out of the county.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). I have not the slightest doubt they did it and I say: God bless them for giving back to these gentlemen opposite the same medicine as they themselves administered in 1896. We have evidence that both sides did it in the Drummond-Arthabaska election, and these gentlemen opposite were hoisted on their own petard.

Then came on the last Dominion elections and the people of the province of Quebec and the people of other provinces resisted the appeals to prejudices made by the Liberals, and they placed the Right Hon. R. L. Borden where he now stands