

ment and the various other things I have mentioned, we would have \$34,800,000 every year, which this country must assume, and comparing it with the expenditure of other countries similarly situated, I venture to say it would be nearly half as much more rather than one dollar less. There is another aspect of the case. We have heard of lectures being delivered all over the country to the effect that Canada must cut adrift from Britain. I remember an able lecture delivered by my good friend Mr. Ewart, of Winnipeg, in which he pointed out a few disabilities under which we labour, and amongst others the right to appeal to the privy Council, and the denial of the privilege of making our own treaties, and the fact that we had an important officer commanding our forces. Nobody has ever heard of these things in the country, except in connection with the agitation gotten up by a very few demagogues. Let us compare the stability of government under the old British flag with that of other countries, and I will not go back further than one hundred years. The British constitution has not been changed for a hundred years, but what about France. I have always admired France and her people, because I understood the good qualities of the French.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. Yes, I am free to say that I am always glad to pay a tribute to the people of France. I chance to have a little interest in that people through ties of blood and relationship, and therefore I have no prejudices against them, paying little attention to the demagogic elements which display themselves at times among certain ones in Canada, and regarding their virtues rather than their little weaknesses. Since 1792 France has been in turn a kingdom, a republic, a directorate, a consulate, an empire, kingdom, a republic, an empire and a republic again. Within a hundred years she has had a dozen different constitutions; she has been deluged with blood, her country has been devastated by war and her people have had to bear the enormous cost of all the dreadful struggles which in that time have agitated that beautiful country. The boundaries of France greatly changed in the same period. Alsace and Lorraine have been won and lost; the northern boundary has varied; the Franche Comté has been added; she has added Savoy and Nice. At one time a part of Germany, the Netherlands, Holland and Belgium, were included in her territory, and afterwards were lost to her. She has also held part of Italy. Turn to Germany, and you find that South German Confederation, and the old Confederation of the Rhine were broken up, and various forms of government were established throughout the length and breadth of the country, largely owing to the operations of France. Prussia,

Mr. SAM. HUGHES.

Pomerania, Brandenburg, part of Poland, part of Denmark, part Sweden, the free cities Bavaria, Wurtemberg, Baden, Elsass and Lothringen—these have all at various times within that period had constitutions of their own; but they are all now within the great north German confederation. Their constitutions have changed. They too have been devastated with war and all its accompaniments. Italy within the same time has had included within its domains the following independent nations, such as Canada would be if she cut adrift from Britain: Sardinia, Piedmont, the Ligurian republic, the Cisalpine republic, Venice, Lombardy, Tuscany, the States of the Church, Naples, the Two Sicilies, and the little Kingdom of Italy. These were gradually absorbed one after the other; and finally in 1870 when the war broke out between France and Germany, the capital which had been transferred from Turin to Florence; was changed to Rome. The nations making up the kingdom of Italy have had a dozen constitutions during the century, and have been subject to all the disabilities that similar nations laboured under. Within a hundred or one hundred and ten years, the Netherlands and Belgium have changed. From the old Austrian Netherlands and the old province of Holland, they became part of France. then they were independent as the 'United Netherlands' for thirty years; and finally they became separated as Belgium and Holland. During that time their constitutions have changed, and they have suffered the horrors of war. I could go through the whole of the European states, and could point out how similar conditions have prevailed all over the continent.

Turning to the United States we find that she has been constantly enlarging her territory. In 1803 she obtained Louisiana from France by purchase. In 1819 she obtained Florida from Spain by purchase. In 1836 Texas, with the connivance of the United States, obtained its independence from Mexico, and in 1845 Texas was annexed to the United States the western part being purchased later. In 1846 the Oregon treaty established the boundary from the 42nd parallel and in the Rockies to the 49th parallel; and in 1853 her territory was enlarged on the border of Mexico by the Gila—Gasden purchase; and in 1898 Porto Rico, and the Philippines were added, with Cuba independent. We find that the United States has preserved her constitution during that time, although her borders have greatly changed.

Mr. ARMAND LAVERGNE. How about Canada?

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. Canada is part of Britain, and in that time Canada has formed her confederation, a young nation, and is pursuing the co-operative line.