

must observe the institutions of the United States of America. President Roosevelt the other day—and he cannot be charged with being an enemy of any church—one of the most tolerant and broad-minded gentlemen who have ever been honoured with the position of chief magistrate of the United States says :

We have no room for any people who do not act and vote simply as Americans, and as nothing else. Moreover, we have as little use for people who carry religious prejudices into their politics as for those who carry prejudices of caste or nationality. We stand unalterably in favour of the public school system in its entirety. We believe that English, and no other language, is that in which all the school exercise should be conducted. We are against any division of the school fund and against any appropriation of public money for sectarian purposes. We are against any recognition whatever by the state in any shape or form of state-aided parochial schools. But we are equally opposed to any discrimination against or for a man because of his creed.

We all say 'amen' to that.

We demand that all citizens, Protestant and Catholics, Jew and Gentile, shall have fair treatment in every way ; that all alike shall have their rights guaranteed them. The very reasons that make us unqualified in our opposition to state-aided sectarian schools make us equally bent that in the management of our public schools, the adherents of each creed shall be given exact and equal justice, wholly without regard to their religious affiliations ; that trustees, superintendents, teachers, scholars, all alike, shall be treated without any reference whatsoever to the creed they profess. The immigrant must learn that we exact full religious toleration and the complete separation of church and state. He must revere only our flag ; not only must it come first, but no other flag should even come second. He must learn to celebrate the fourth of July instead of St. Patrick's day. Those (foreigners) who become Americanized have furnished to our history a multitude of honourable names ; those who did not become Americanized form to the present day an unimportant body of no significance in American existence. Thus it has ever been with all people who have come hither, of whatever stock or blood. The same thing is true of all churches. A church which remains foreign, in language or spirit, is doomed.

These are the words of President Roosevelt, and I commend them to the First Minister. I believe that in his heart of hearts these are the sentiments of the First Minister, and at one time I believe they actuated him, and that even now, if he allowed his better judgment to rule him, he would rise up and give utterance to those sentiments. Now, Sir, having given these quotations from some Protestant authorities, I will come to an Irishman—the Minister of Justice will prick up his ears a little—for the gentleman I am going to quote is editor of the organ of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, a paper published in the city of Chicago. He is a distinguished Roman

Mr. SAM. HUGHES.

Catholic citizen of Chicago, by the name of Hon. John F. Finerty, a member of Congress, I believe, or a senator, and I commend his utterances to the Minister of Justice, because he speaks in the interest of the country rather than in favour of a church ; I commend his sentiments to the Minister of Justice who has been junketting around at the expense of Canada, going to Rome and elsewhere in the interest of a section of the people of Canada, and I am satisfied that the tolerant and broad-minded sentiments of Mr. Finerty will appeal to that hon. gentleman. And I may say in passing that I see our good friend has sold his stock in the 'Soleil,' which has been telling the people of Canada that there will be no compromise on this school question. So we may expect that he will not take the extreme interest in that subject henceforward that he has in the past. Mr. Finerty says :

In brief, then, we say to all whom it may concern : Let American institutions severely alone, and do not kindle the flames of a bigot hell in this grand country by seeking after the unattainable.

These are the words of Mr. Finerty, speaking in the city of Chicago to the people of the United States. I will read them again :

Mr. LEMIEUX. Does the hon. gentleman know that Mr. Finerty belongs to the Clan-na-Gael?

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. I am merely saying that even an extreme man like Mr. Finerty, and a member of the Clan-na-Gael—I do not know whether he is, I am not a member of the order, so I do not know ; the hon. gentleman possibly knows—and I accept him as authority upon that point—I am merely saying that though he may be a member of the Clan-na-Gael, he holds these views on this great question, and I quote them as the views of a broad and tolerant citizen of the Roman Catholic faith in the United States :

In brief, then, we say to all whom it may concern : Let American institutions severely alone, and do not kindle the flames of a bigot hell in this grand country by seeking after the unattainable. Always bear in mind, that the vast majority of the American people, of all creeds, will stand by their country, her constitution, her laws and her institutions. Any evasion of either by any outside force whatever will mean war. What man, what set of men would be fatuous enough to bring such a curse upon this land ?

Continuing Mr. Finerty says :

We believe in the American non-sectarian public school.

These are the words of an Irishman and—I take the word of the Minister of Justice—no, the prospective Minister of Justice, the present Solicitor General—that Mr. Finerty is a member of the Clan-na-Gael :