

from the days as far back as 1837. It is this class of politicians who create these religious and racial agitations throughout the country, hoping thereby to gain a prominence which they cannot achieve in any other way. But it is not necessary for the men of any race or religion in Canada to resort to that kind of thing. There are plenty of Irishmen, Scotchmen and Frenchmen and men of every nationality who can command the respect of their fellow countrymen without resorting to such pernicious methods. We had another exhibition of these methods in the person of the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson). On one occasion, when speaking in the city of Brantford, that magnificent voice of his was raised to such a pitch that just as the audience left the building, the roof fell in. Well, the only resemblance between the Minister of Customs of to-day and the Minister of Customs of years gone by is that sonorous voice of his. It was heard in Ontario in 1896, when he exclaimed in stentorian tones: Hands off Manitoba; down with Tupper and the Church of Rome; we will never be ruled by the Bishops of Rome; let the free men of the west show their independence. The newspaper speeches and posters of hon. gentlemen opposite reeked with this sort of thing.

And he stood up here saying in effect: Pity the sorrows of a poor old man who wants to hold on to office; who has been for thirty-two years in the saddle—I think that was what he said—with the First Minister, and has learned to love him. Well, these are great constitutional reasons why two provinces of this Dominion should be tied hand and foot for all time to come. In some of his speeches, the hon. gentleman was wont to quote those grand old words from Junius, which the Toronto 'Globe' years ago adopted for its motto: 'The subject who is truly loyal to the chief magistrate will neither advise nor submit to arbitrary measures.' But there was not a word of independence from him the other night. It was only: Let me hold down my job in the custom-house; keep the ship together and keep her off the rocks; I have been thirty-two years in the saddle with the Prime Minister, and I love the dear old man; and I am not fit for much else. Let me tell the hon. gentleman that the rule of life is that men go down and give place to others. In politics, as in every walk of life in which there is struggle, men disappear. But the sun rises and sets and the men are soon forgotten. Had these hon. gentlemen stood to the constitution there would have been no danger of the Prime Minister going out of office on this question, no danger of the government being broken up. On the contrary, it would have been much stronger than it is to-day. Had they done this, the acting Minister of Public Works (Mr. Hyman) would not have been afraid to face his electors; Centre Toronto would not

have gone by default; the government would not have been obliged to dangle jobs before the eyes of their partisans from the Northwest Territories; and, as I am reminded, the tomato man of the party, the member for Centre York (Mr. Campbell) could have been made Minister of Agriculture and need not have been afraid, on this account, to face his electors. Not a constituency in the country but would have supported the government on this subject. Men come and go; members of this House appear and pass. And when every man who has occupied a place in this House shall have passed and been forgotten, the principles that are being discussed to-day will live; the principles—or lack of principles—that are being fastened upon the people of the new provinces will remain to remind the future generation of those

Patriots self-bound to the stake of office,
Martyrs for their country's sake,
Who fill, themselves, the hungry jaws of fate
And by their loss of manhood save the state.

Now, Sir, we all admire the open fearless dare-devil rather than the sneak; we admire the man who holds up a train or, flying the black flag, orders the merchantman to heave to, but we despise the man who slinks around by the back door to commit some petty theft. Therefore, it was a refreshing thing to see the ex-Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) stand up and to hear him boldly and brazenly admit that the whole policy of the government was wrong, that there was no question of the constitution in it, no question of vested rights or control by this parliament, nor could there be any question of policy, for it was a wrong policy. He said in effect: I do not believe in separate schools, but I want to keep the old aggregation together, and I will see them through. I have not before me the oath of office taken by that hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) as a member of parliament—he had the decency to resign his position in the cabinet before he made the speech to which I have referred—but I would recommend him to walk into the clerk's room and read it. And if, in the light of that oath, he can reconcile his speech and his vote, he will prove himself able to turn a shorter corner than I think he can.

The hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa), who is now conveniently out of the House, is credited with having written certain articles for 'La Nationaliste,' warning the ex-Minister of the Interior of his duty to support the party, and warning him that if he persisted in wrecking this government some very unpleasant things would be brought before the public. It is the duty of this House to know what it is the hon. gentleman (Mr. Bourassa) referred to. We want him to stand up in this House, to show himself brave for once in his life, and let the public know what was meant by this threat that brought the ex-Minister of the Interior so quickly back into line. I

MR. SAM. HUGHES.