

Prime Minister notwithstanding the fact that they know when they are doing so that the people who sent them to this parliament are opposed to this measure.

Now, I do not wish to make any joke of this, but to speak earnestly about it. And I say truthfully—and I challenge contradiction—that in no case, in caucus or out of caucus, in this House or out of this House, has one member of the government or one member of this House on the government side, even asked me what I intended to do on this question. Now, gentlemen, I say that openly—

Mr. TAYLOR. I rise to a point of order. The hon. gentleman (Mr. T. Martin) thinks he is before a country audience. He should address the Chair.

Mr. T. MARTIN. Mr. Speaker, if I am out of order, I apologize and am ready at once to conform to the rule of the House. But if the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor), the whip of the Conservative party, had called his freshman to order last night, I think he would have done well. It is astonishing that he, an old member of this House could sit and listen for an hour and a half to such nonsense, to such stuff, and yet, lose his head before I have been speaking fifteen minutes. It seems to me that if leniency should be shown in this House, new members should have the benefit of it. I was quite willing that all leniency should be shown to my hon. friend from Haldimand (Mr. Lalor) even though, he did allow himself such latitude. Had he been before a country audience and made such a speech as he made last night, he would have been told a dozen times that he was very fresh.

Mr. LALOR. There is a pair of us.

Mr. T. MARTIN. We are both from the country, and I am not ashamed of the country. Now, I wish to be thoroughly understood, and I wish these words of mine to go to the country, when I say that on no occasion have I—and I believe the same is true of every hon. member on the government side of the House—been requested, even so much as requested, to vote for the Bill now in consideration.

An hon. MEMBER. Or any other Bill.

Mr. T. MARTIN. Yes, or any other Bill. I was very sorry also that the young member for Haldimand (Mr. Lalor) should attack so recklessly and with so little conscience that grand man the right hon. leader of this House (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). The hon. member used language with reference to the Prime Minister that no young member of this House is entitled to use. The Prime Minister of this country has a record, and by that record he is to be judged. He has behind him a record of twenty-three years of public service, a lifetime in itself. He has a record of never failing tolerance. He has a record of clean

and able administration, such a record as we have seldom had among the public men of Canada. Can any man charge the Prime Minister of this Dominion with having misused in any way a penny of the public funds? Can any man charge the Prime Minister with intolerance or with any disregard of the rights or feelings of any section of the people? I say that it is unbecoming of any young member of this House, of any man of little experience either political or parliamentary, to use such language with reference to the right hon. leader of this House as was used by the hon. member for Haldimand.

I was much pleased to hear the hon. member for Peel (Mr. Blain) the other day quote the utterances of a Presbyterian minister and declare, as he did, that any one would accept the statement of the gentleman whose name he gave and whose words he quoted. I belong to that church myself, and I am proud of the church and of the men it has produced. Therefore, I desire to follow the hon. member for Peel and give the opinions of some members of that denomination, to show that the school system of the Northwest as it now stands is satisfactory to the people of these new provinces and that therefore, we are right in voting for this Bill. This quoting of the opinion of members of one church may seem a little sectional, but I am sure that hon. members will bear with me when they hear the names of those whose words I desire to give. First I would refer to the late Rev. Dr. Robertson, and I am sure, when I mention his name, those hon. members who belong to the Presbyterian church—and I am glad to say there are a large number in this House who belong to it—and all the adherents of that church throughout the country, will receive almost as final evidence any utterance of Dr. Robertson with regard to the Northwest. Dr. Robertson became a superintendent of missions of the Presbyterian church in 1882 and continued in that work until his death in 1902. And I believe that I state only the simple truth when I say that in the twenty years of his service no man ever did more for the Northwest, or said more for the Northwest, than this great man whose name I have given. Those of us who have had the honour and pleasure of receiving him at our own firesides know that his whole conversation was of the Northwest. And those of us who have attended the courts of the church to which he belonged, know that his great theme in the courts of our church was the building up of the Northwest and the extending of religious ordinances to the people of that great country. Dr. Robertson was a broad man. Dr. Robertson was a man who could see past his own church. I have heard him say time and again that he was glad to see other churches in the Northwest, he wanted other churches to prosper, but one of his greatest

Mr. T. MARTIN.