

of the United States certain brief quotations to show what the chief magistrates of that republic have thought of public schools. I do this not to attack the religion of any body of people, for the question of dogma has nothing to do with religion. If any man is interfered with in the free exercise of his religion, that interference should not for a moment be permitted. If in a matter of conscience any one were to attempt to interfere with the right hon. Prime Minister, I would be ready to resent that interference and to put the one interfering in his proper place. But, if the Prime Minister says: This is my dogma and you must bow to it, and if we do bow to it, what limit can we place upon demands of this kind? Why, we should see repeated over and over the humiliating spectacle of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) who says: we must yield because forty-one per cent of the people demand it. And next month they may demand something else, and so on; we must yield again and again upon the plea that it is a question of dogma, until the liberties which our ancestors suffered so much to gain for us are taken from us at the behest of men who are more anxious to hang on to office than they are to stand by a principle. Martin Van Buren, the eighth president of the United States—1837-1841—said:

The national will is the supreme law of the republic. In no country has education been so widely diffused. All forms of religion have united for the first time to diffuse charity and piety, because for the first time in the history of nations all have been totally untrammelled and absolutely free.

And James K. Polk, eleventh president—1845-1849—said:

No union exists between church and state, and perfect freedom of opinion is guaranteed to all sects and creeds. Who shall assign limits to the achievements of free minds and free hands under the protection of this glorious union? No treason to mankind since the organization of society would be equal in atrocity to that of him who would lift his hand to destroy it.

These are the sentiments of that president of the United States in relation to the great public school system that, even at that time, half a century ago had raised the down-trodden and disinherited people of Europe who were flocking to the shores of the United States and made them what the Almighty intended they should be, not slaves, but creatures made in the image of God and ready to take a part in the upbuilding of a great nation.

Mr. LEMIEUX. Does the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sam. Hughes) believe that Salisbury and Gladstone were wrong and these presidents of the United States right?

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. I am ready to discuss Salisbury and Gladstone, and Balfour

Mr. SAM. HUGHES.

and Chamberlain too. These men take conditions as they exist. But Great Britain is developing. Besides, Britain is a more densely settled country than Canada. The circumstances are entirely different—

Mr. BRODEUR. Why should that make a difference?

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. The Liberals of England do not like religious schools.

Mr. LEMIEUX. I would like to ask the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sam. Hughes) if he thinks that England is behind the United States?

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. England is behind the United States in the matter of education, undoubtedly. England is the mother of nations; it is to her we owe the great federations of the world, the application of the principle of central control in common matters with local control in local matters. The United States is the next nation, and, in spite of great drawbacks—

Mr. LEMIEUX. England is the greatest nation in the world in spite of what the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sam. Hughes) says.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. That is an entirely different sentiment from the one which the hon. gentleman (Mr. Lemieux) expressed in Quebec in 1896, when he stood before the French Canadians and said: Are you going to vote for Tupper and the Tories, who spent \$3,000,000 for guns, and who are ready to send your sons to fight Britain's battles abroad? That is what the hon. gentleman said, and it was proven in this House.

Mr. LEMIEUX. I do not know what the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sam. Hughes) refers to, but if he speaks of the Transvaal War—

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. No, I speak of what the hon. gentleman (Mr. Lemieux) said—in the election campaign of 1896. Let me recall to his mind what he said—I know it almost sounds as if he were irresponsible at the time. The then member for Sherbrooke standing in this House, pointing his finger at the hon. gentleman (Mr. Lemieux) said: Instead of being here preaching loyalty you ought to be behind the prison bars for treason. This he said to the Solicitor General (Mr. Lemieux) in my own hearing, and in that of many members now in this House. And what was the reason? Because the hon. gentleman had appealed to the prejudices of the people of Quebec saying: Will you vote for Tupper and Tories, who spent \$3,000,000 of the people's money to buy rifles and who will send your sons to fight Britain's battles?

Mr. LEMIEUX. My hon. friend (Mr. Sam. Hughes) is wholly astray. I never held any such language. I never met the hon. member for Sherbrooke (Mr. Worth-