

best part of the harbour at Port Colborne, and so these men are going on with that great elevator scheme at the present time. Are there any dangers from it? Let the hon member for Lincoln (Mr. Gibson), a tolerably strong supporter of the government, the chief whip of the party, indeed, and a practical transportation man; let him say what he thinks with regard to that subject. On page 9263 of the *Hansard*, in 1899, the hon. member for Lincoln (Mr. Gibson) said this:

I would like to point out to the government of the day the danger of elevators becoming the property of private individuals. It would be quite within the mark for any company in Buffalo to erect an immense elevator in the harbour of Port Colborne, getting a site from the government; getting one also in Montreal, and they could practically tie up all the work which the government has constructed at an expenditure of millions of dollars, by making the tolls so excessive that the grain would have to be shipped via Buffalo instead of via the Welland Canal.

Mr. GIBSON. Hear, hear.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Gibson) gives assent to it, and I knew he would. He knows the danger from this policy. He dreads the results which may flow from it, and he is right. It is one of the most dangerous embargoes which has been placed on the transportation trade of this country, and it was done by wirepulling and not in the public interest, nor in the interest of the trade and commerce of Canada.

Now, Sir, the Prime Minister made an explanation in Winnipeg with regard to the expenditure. He is always happy in his illustrations. I think just then he was giving a promise with regard to the prohibition question, and he said to the people:

You have it in your own hands; our policy is to give a plebiscite, and if the people vote for prohibition they must have it.

They voted, but they have not got it. What was the hon. gentleman's illustration? He will remember it I am sure. He said this:

In olden days there was a king, one of whose subjects owned a donkey, and the king said to his subject: Can you teach the donkey to speak, and the subject said he could. The king said: I will give you ten years to teach the donkey to speak, and if at the end of ten years you cannot get the donkey to speak, then off goes your head. The subject accepted the terms, and one of his friends said to him: But why did you accept such onerous terms as that? Oh, he said, it makes no difference, for at the end of ten years either the king or the donkey or myself will be dead.

Well, Mr. Speaker, on the prohibition question, neither the king, nor the donkey, nor himself is dead, but it appears to me, that on that as well as upon the expenditure somebody's head will come off when this parliament is ended and the people have a chance to speak at the polls.

Mr. MONTAGUE.

There are many things upon which the government ought to be congratulated. They ought to be congratulated upon their good luck, the Minister of Trade and Commerce says. Yes, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) ought to be congratulated on being able to reap where others have sown. I congratulate the government (and I am not anxious to spare my congratulations), upon having secured for Canada a place for her securities in the charmed circle (as the Minister of Trade and Commerce told us) of the trusts in Great Britain. I not only congratulate him on having got that for Canada, but I congratulate him in this instance specifically on having been able to reap where the labours of others sowed years ago for Canada and Canadian interests. In 1889 an order in council was passed by the Canadian government calling for this justice to the securities of Canada. That order in council—the hon. gentleman will see if he looks up the records of his department—was transmitted to the present leader of the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) who was then Canada's representative at home. And what did Sir Charles Tupper do? He called together the representatives of all the colonies and they waited upon the Treasury Board of the Imperial government with reference to this question of Canadian securities. The Treasury Board heard their presentation of the case and agreed to appoint a committee to deal with that subject. Fortunately, I have here the minute of the Treasury Board on that matter, and here it is:

Mr. CLARKE. What are you quoting from?

Mr. MONTAGUE. From the minute of the Imperial Treasury Board laid upon the Table of the House of Lords in response to a motion in that august body. This minute of the Treasury Board is dated November 1, 1889. The minute says that on July 9, the board had received representations from Sir Charles Tupper and other colonial representatives upon the question of the colonial securities. The Lord Chancellor deals with several phases of the question, and then goes on to say that they had decided to appoint a committee to deal with the subject, and then adds:

'But from communications which have taken place since last July he learns that the Agents General of the Colonies have elected to be represented on such committee by Sir Charles Tupper, Sir F. D. Bell and Sir Graham Berry, that the Lord Chancellor has consented to be represented by Mr. Muir Mackenzie; that Mr. Greene, one of the directors of the Bank of England, had been good enough to place his services at the disposal of the government. The Chancellor of the Exchequer therefore recommends that a committee be now appointed consisting of Sir Charles Tupper, Sir F. D. Bell, Sir Graham Berry, representing the colonies; Mr. Green, the Bank of England; Mr. Mackenzie, the Lord Chancellor; Mr. Bramston, the Colonial