

occupy. But he looked at his country, and saw the condition of public affairs; he saw the prostration of this country; he saw the lamentable position to which his successor had brought the financial affairs of the country; and, regardless of his own ease and comfort, he threw himself back into the political field and was again sent to this Parliament by the chief city of New Brunswick. Well, having been clothed with the important duties he now discharges, he returned to that constituency, and, by acclamation, was again sent back here to deal with the public affairs of this country. How has he dealt with them? Handling the most important questions that could be confided to any member of any administration, at a time the most critical in the history in Canada, he has been so enabled to deal with those great questions as to empower him to stand in the proud and triumphant position he now occupies, and to show the House that no Government in the country, or out of it, ever occupied a position more triumphant in relation to the questions of public policy which he has propounded. And, Sir, that speech, one which I need not say to the hon. gentlemen who heard it, was of transcendent ability—a speech that would have done honor to any representative assembly in the world—that speech, I say, the courtesy of which only equalled the ability with which it was delivered, was received by the ex-Finance Minister—how? Why, Sir, in a manner that, I have no hesitation in saying, caused his supporters and the hon. gentlemen who sit around him, to blush with shame.

Sir RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT. Hear, hear.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Now, Sir, suppose that, instead of the record that my hon. friend possesses; suppose that he had stood in this House in the position of a man who, unable to make his own way, born in the lap of luxury, had had all the advantage that wealth can bestow, and had been sent to a great University on the other side of the water; and suppose that he had come back without high honors and distinction that such a man, if there was anything in him, ought to have come back with, had come back without either honor or distinction; supposing that having returned he had undertaken to qualify himself to practice in a learned profession, and after years of struggling was obliged to abandon it because he was not able to reach the Bar, and suppose, making use of his wealth, he had been able to obtain a constituency, and finding that the party with which he was associated knew him too well to entrust him with high and responsible duties, he had abandoned his party, turned his back upon his friends and went over to the enemy and made common cause with them, and by his political tergiversation obtained a position amongst his opponents of a life time that he had never been able to acquire among his friends; suppose that had been the position of my hon. friend, and suppose that having obtained the lofty position of Minister of Finance, instead of discharging the high duties that devolved upon him in the way my hon. friend has done, his first act was to put into the mouth of the Governor General a statement that was devoid of truth—

Sir RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT. Hear, hear.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Suppose that for political and party purposes he had asked the representative of Her Majesty in Parliament assembled to declare that the financial condition of this country was such from the inability of the revenue to meet the expenditure, that a serious deficit was inevitable—

Sir RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT. So it was.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. That a serious deficit would follow unless increased taxation was laid upon the shoulders of the people—

Sir RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT. So it was.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Suppose that after that hon. gentleman had ventured to make that statement, he had supported it, by attempting to force a balance in the Public Accounts, to the extent of half a million of money; suppose that my hon. friend stood convicted—and I use the term deliberately—stood convicted before this Parliament, of having put chargeable to revenue \$545,000 that was voted by Parliament for capital account, spent by Parliament for capital account, was transferred by the late Finance Minister to force a balance on the other side; suppose that after all that was done my hon. friend had been unable to accomplish his object, and that it had remained clear as noon day that after this half million had been carried over, he still stood in the position of having a proved and established surplus at the time he had declared there would be a deficit; suppose that would be the position—

Sir RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT. I deny every word of it.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Does he deny having declared that the ordinary expenditure of the country demanded a large increase in the volume of taxation to be put upon the people of this country? I have, under my hand here, the hon. gentleman's own testimony, and there was not a word of truth in it. The same hon. gentleman that declared that there had been \$1,500,000 deficit on the 1st July, 1874, the same hon. gentleman that declared that, in 1875, the ordinary expenditure of the country would have involved a deficit of \$2,000,000, committed himself to this statement which I will read, and then I will leave the House to judge how far that hon. gentleman's statement will be regarded as a contradiction to any statement that any hon. gentleman may make in this House. I read from an Order in Council. What does it say? That that \$3,000,000 of taxes was imposed to meet a deficit.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. You should say, were imposed.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I am much obliged to my hon. friend. I am afraid I shall be charged with being ungrammatical. Does it say these \$3,000,000 of taxes were imposed for the purpose of meeting a prospective deficit in the ordinary expenditure? No, Sir, but the hon. gentleman here stands committed, with every colleague that he had in the Government, to the statement that every dollar of that was imposed for another and a different purpose, and that was to meet the expenditure that would be involved by the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway. I will read from an Order in Council, to the truth of which every one of those gentlemen is pledged, of the 8th July, 1874, after the close of this very year in which the hon. gentleman declared that it was necessary to impose high additional taxation in order to enable the revenue to cover the expenditure. On that day, this Minute of Council is signed and sent to the same Governor General that had been asked to declare, in his place in Parliament, that a large taxation was required to meet the ordinary expenditure of the country. It says:

"In order to enable the Government to carry out the proposals which it was hoped British Columbia would have accepted, the average rate of taxation was raised, at the late Session, about 15 per cent.; Customs duties being raised from 15 to 17½ per cent., and the Excise duties on spirits and tobacco, a corresponding rate, both involving additional taxation exceeding \$3,000,000 in the transactions of the year."

Now, the hon. gentleman ventured the statement that this taxation was required to meet an impending deficit, and yet he declares that more than \$3,000,000—\$3,000,000 was all he asked the House to vote for the purpose he then stated—and more than \$3,000,000 was voted by this Parliament for the express purpose of constructing the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Sir RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT. No; it is no such thing.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Now, suppose that my hon. friend, after placing himself in that position, had gone a