

The sagacity and the energy of our friends in Ottawa in this matter have been recognized by Sir Charles Tupper himself—

The great leader himself recognized this—

—and by the Hon. Mr Tisdale and by other Conservative chiefs.

The "Globe" has been getting its whole defence of this deal from quotations from what the hon. leader of the Opposition has said in its favour, and on January 29th it said :

The general tone of the press—

Which I deny—

—including Liberal-Conservative and Independent, is favourable to the Government plan for an all-Canadian route to the Yukon district. The "Mail and Empire" says the route is that favoured by Sir Charles, and in an interview published in the Montreal "Gazette," Sir Charles gives his unqualified approval of the scheme.

On behalf of the Conservative press of Ontario—and I think I know them, and I believe they respect me—I desire to say that they are opposed to that deal, that they are opposed to the monopoly clauses and above all opposed to the principle of not putting up that great contract to tender. But what occurred in this city of Ottawa? The "Citizen" of Friday last had the paragraph I have already quoted; but on Saturday morning, instead of using the interviews given to the "Mail" it published this article signed by "Onlooker," and the writer of which, I believe, is not very far away from the hon. gentleman.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Name.

Mr. MACLEAN. All I can say is that the ex-Minister of Finance was met on the streets of Ottawa by a friend of his—at least so I am told—who went up to him and congratulated him on the excellent article, and the hon. gentleman was so pleased with the compliment that he did not deny the authorship.

Mr. FOSTER. If the hon. gentleman would allow me one moment, I desire to say that there is not a word of truth in that from beginning to end.

Mr. MACLEAN. Does the hon. gentleman say that it was not his article?

Mr. FOSTER. The hon. gentleman may be very smart. I was not referring to the article, but to his statement.

Mr. MACLEAN. I gave the statement on hearsay. But I now give him the fact that he was the writer "Onlooker" of that article, and now give him the opportunity of denying it.

Mr. FOSTER. My hon. friend is a journalist, and he knows that as such he is not doing a manly thing in trying to get a secret which is a secret of the editor and the writer alone.

Mr. MACLEAN. The hon. gentleman will not deny that when the hon. leader of the Opposition was seeking in every way possible to commend this contract, the writer of this article signed "Onlooker" was busily arraigning the Government for this Yukon deal, and I can only tell the ex-Finance Minister that this article is the clearest and straightest indictment of the Government that I have yet read in connection with this transaction.

Mr. FOSTER. That is good for "Onlooker."

Mr. MACLEAN. And it is to his credit, and I direct the attention of the leader of the Opposition to this article and the charges which it contains against the Government, and I would ask him to say whether he was faithful to his duty and to his party—and he, as leader, has a duty to his party as well as we as are privates—in rushing headlong to approve of a transaction which is condemned, in the article to which I refer. However, I do not propose to read it to-night, because a great many have seen it but there is one phrase in it which the writer, describing the Toronto "Globe," appeared to be describing a politician well known in this country :

Alas, the Toronto "Globe" has descended to be a prospectus writer to every doubtful Government proposal, the advance agent as it were with its posters—flaring and grandiloquent—for each succeeding scheme of wasteful expenditure and monopoly.

And all this occurred at the very moment when the Conservatives of Ontario were interested, more than at any other time, in what I have called before to-day the transportation problem. If there is one thing which struck the Conservatives of Ontario more than another, it was the indecent way in which at the close of the last session of the Ontario legislature, two subsidies were rushed through, which, we have now found out, were for the benefit of the same people who control the Yukon Railway. The Conservatives of Ontario were discouraged; they saw some connection between the subsidies voted at Toronto and the Yukon deal at Ottawa, and looking forward to the elections about to come off in our province, they expected the Opposition at Ottawa to expose the iniquity of all these deals. Instead of that, however, they found the Conservative leader of the Opposition rushing forward in the most anxious way to approve of the policy of his opponents. This grab at Toronto is in the interests of the Canadian Pacific Railway, as is also this Yukon monopoly, and the Conservatives in Ontario and elsewhere in Canada are getting tired of finding their party and especially their leader approving all these projects for the aggrandisement of the Canadian Pacific Railway, introduced in this House by hon. gentlemen opposite.