

to \$750,000 failed for millions of dollars. He merely mentioned this now because they were on the subject of Protection, and because he considered that there was nothing in this country to-day that required action on the part of the Government more than these commercial agencies. A dishonest man, who could raise \$25 or \$50, could go to one of the commercial reporters he had referred to, and get a rating prior to starting business. He could then go to the wholesale merchant and buy goods, and refer him to the commercial agency. The merchant finds the man is rated at \$2,000, and he believes the report and delivers the goods. But that man started business with a view of seeing how much he could rob the merchant of. He paid small amounts for a few months, and then failed, offering a composition of 10c., 20c., or 25c., for what he should pay 100c. And this was all the fault of the commercial agencies. He would not longer detain the House upon this subject, because he proposed to present a petition asking that a law might be framed to put these men in the same position as other companies; as for instance, fire and life insurance companies, that would require them to make a certain deposit with the Government, take out a license, and, at the same time, have a sign over their doors stating what their business is, and offer facilities to any man to examine their books. This would be some protection. It would not be too much to say that millions of dollars were carried out of the Dominion to the United States every year by these commercial agencies. He was told that in New York, and other places, their residences were perfect palaces, and that some of the dwelling houses of the managers cost a million of money. If this was the case, should not these agencies be checked? He hoped that when he brought the subject up, the Government would take the matter in hand. Now most of the gentlemen who had spoken upon this question of the tariff had given their experience about the late elections, and he had a very interesting tale he could tell about the last general elections, as far as he was individually concerned. The then Ministers of the Crown had made themselves very busy at his election, which, of course, they had

a perfect right to do. He found no fault with that. He found fault with a Minister of the Crown trying to get all the employes of the Government who had votes in the county of Carleton to vote against him (Mr. Rochester). He did not expect that these gentlemen who had worked for years in order to get an election law that would do away with bribery and corruption would be the first to break them. But what occurred in his county? He had three opponents in his last contest, whom he would divide as two Conservatives and one Reformer. And there was one who styled himself as a Tory of the deepest water. The late Secretary of State got hold of that gentleman (Rev. J. May), and they all knew that hon. gentleman was a great manipulator. He manipulated this Tory of the deepest water until he pledged that, if he was elected for the county of Carleton, he would abandon Toryism and be a good Grit in the future, if the hon. gentleman would do certain things. Now he was told the hon. gentleman did do certain things, and these certain things were that he wanted money with which to pay his debts, and he wanted money with which to run the election. The hon. the Secretary of State told parties who called upon him that they had done this, and that they had given him money for these purposes. The Reform candidate, as honest a man as ever breathed, was Mr. John A. Grant. Mr. Grant came down here for the purpose of asking the Government to give him their support as the Government candidate. But the Secretary of State said: "No, Mr. Grant, we have taken hold of Rev. John May, and we cannot give up the Rev. John May." Mr. Grant said the Rev. John May was a Tory, to which the Secretary of State replied, "You know, Mr. Grant, the county of Carleton is not well enough educated to run a Grit candidate." He (Mr. Rochester) hoped it never would be educated so as to run a Grit candidate. After Mr. Grant and his friends left the office, the hon. gentleman sent after him and invited him back. He took Mr. Grant into his inside office and said, "Now, Mr. Grant, I want you to understand that everything that is said here is confidential. We must tell you then, that we cannot help you. We are bound to run the Rev. John May.