

two men for positions the duties of which they were unfitted to perform. Neither the hon. member for North Oxford nor the hon. member for North Essex has shown that Mr. McGregor had the slightest qualification for this office. They say he was a respectable farmer and of a respectable family. But it might as well be said that these things would justify his appointment as a judge of the Supreme Court.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. My hon. friend (Sir Charles Tupper) would not send out a judge to collect the mining royalty.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. What I said was that the Minister should have appointed men who had qualifications for the performance of their duty—

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Exactly what I did.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Exactly what the hon. gentleman did not. With scores of able and qualified men in the country, men who understood mining and who were good accountants—

Mr. MCGREGOR. Mr. McGregor is a good accountant. He was in a bank as a young man, and is a good accountant and judge of gold.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I do not question the accuracy of what the hon. gentleman (Mr. McGregor) says. But it does not touch the question. The charge is that these men were appointed to positions they were unfitted to fill. I gave the evidence of an English gentleman living in Moosomin.

Mr. LANDERKIN. Name.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I told hon. gentlemen that I would furnish the name when an independent commission was appointed before which this gentleman could give evidence.

Mr. LANDERKIN. Hearsay evidence—condemn a man on mere hearsay evidence.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. My hon. friend (Mr. Landerkin) had better not interrupt me or I shall deal with him with greater severity than I have hitherto done.

Mr. LANDERKIN. I am prepared to have the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) deal with me.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I should think the hon. gentleman (Mr. Landerkin) had better read the blue-book in which there is mention of a fact which touches him very closely before interrupting people who are discussing questions before this House. I am sorry that my hon. friend should, by these unseemly interruptions force me to use the means that would silence him. I have here a copy of the book—report of the North-west Mounted Police—and I recommend him to engage his time in perusing

it rather than in interrupting me. I gave the evidence of a gentleman who, I had reason to believe, was a gentleman of standing and character, who stated that it was notorious that Mr. McGregor and Capt. Norwood had made fortunes in a few months by the mode in which they had discharged or failed to discharge their duties in the collection of mining rents. I have proved from Major Walsh's report the course he allowed to be taken in regard to these mining rents—that he had allowed the officer to use his discretion as to how much should be paid, which was putting a great temptation in the way of those who were discharging these duties in connection with the mining in the Yukon. And when I find this confirmed by what seems to me good evidence, so far as Capt. Norwood is concerned, and when I find it stated that Mr. McGregor retired to Manitoba greatly improved in his circumstances to say the least of it, I feel that I should fail in my duty if I did not bring to the notice of this House—not an attack upon a farmer or a farmer's son—but the fact that men have been appointed that were not qualified for their offices, offices which it was stated, and widely believed, they had abused. I do not say that either touched a dollar improperly—

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Will the hon. gentleman allow me to ask him a question? He has challenged my commendation of Mr. McGregor, but he has not said in what way Mr. McGregor was not qualified.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. He had no knowledge of mining—

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Will the hon. gentleman allow me to state why I think he was a good man? In the first place, he was a young Canadian, with a good, fair Canadian education. Second, he had had a large experience in the west, including a considerable experience in the mining districts and in dealing with mining people. He had large business experience, and had built up a character for honesty and integrity.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. This is the first time we have heard that this gentleman had any knowledge of mining whatever. The Minister of the Interior has not discharged his duty to himself, to this House, or to Mr. McGregor in keeping back this fact. I have been charged with a malicious attack upon individuals. No language could be further from the truth. What I have stated was, that there was a case that demanded an independent investigation. And the greatest enemies of these officers are those who leave them under the imputation of having abused their offices by failing to discharge their duties, when they voted down such an independent investigation as, if their position is what they say it is, would have satisfied the country. I say it is they who are responsible, and not me, for the position those men occupy to-day. I have only drawn at-