

BUDGET SPEECH

DELIVERED BY

HON. SIR CHARLES TUPPER, C.B., G.C.M.G., &c.,

MINISTER OF FINANCE,

— IN —

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

THURSDAY, 12th MAY, 1887.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. In rising to move that you leave the Chair for the purpose of going into Committee of Ways and Means, and taking advantage of this opportunity to make a statement to the House, I wish to say: in the outset that, recognising as I do the great ability of the hon. member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright), and the manner in which he was enabled to discharge the duties of Finance Minister during the period that hon. gentlemen opposite were in power, and recognising as we all do, the great ability of the gentlemen who, on this side of the House, have served in the same capacity under the right hon. gentleman who now leads the House, I must ask for the considerate indulgence of the House on this, the first, occasion that it has become my duty to occupy that position. I do not propose, on the present occasion, to go over the ground that has been so fully occupied by the hon. gentlemen on this side of the House who have preceded me. It will be recollected that, under a comparatively low tariff, Canada enjoyed a very marked degree of prosperity during the first seven years of Confederation, but it must not be forgotten that during that period the industries of Canada enjoyed the great protection which arose from the dislocation of the labor market in the great Republic to the south of us, and which placed us in a very different position to that which at a very early period afterwards we occupied. When that change came, and when the languishing industries of Canada embarrassed the Finance Minister of that day; when, instead of large surpluses, large deficits succeeded year after year, the Opposition urged upon that hon. gentleman that he should reconsider the position and that he should endeavor to give increased protection to the industries of Canada which would prevent them from thus languishing and from being destroyed. We were not successful, I will not say in leading the hon. gentleman himself to the conclusion that that would be a sound policy, for I have some reason to believe that he had many and strong mis-