

The Customs duties being raised from 15 per cent. to 17½ per cent., and the Excise duties on spirits and tobaccos a corresponding rate, both involved an additional taxation exceeding \$3,000,000 on the taxation of the year."

Yet, Sir, the hon. gentleman and his colleagues having put their names to this solemn declaration that the Government of the day, that the Government of which he had so lately ceased to be a member, while he was a member of it, had come to Parliament.

Mr. BLAKE. No, no.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Was not this increase passed by the hon. gentleman while he was in the Government?

Mr. BLAKE. No.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Well, he must have favored them with the light of his countenance but for a very short time, for this increase referred to was in the first Budget Speech brought down by the Government. It would be like fixing an *ignis fatuus* to fix the hon. gentleman's movements in the Government and out of it; but I must be excused for supposing that he had not abandoned them quite so soon after having lent them the weight of his name to get into office. But it matters not whether he was a member of the Government or not. There is the solemn declaration to this House and to this country, as well as to the Mother Country and to the Imperial Parliament, that instead of their holding to the policy that the rate of taxation should not be increased, they had declared that they themselves had increased it to a rate which gave them over \$3,000,000 in a year for the express purpose of constructing the Canadian Pacific Railway. I think if the hon. member for Iberville (Mr. Béchar), who is usually so frank and candid in his statements, if his attention had been called to this Order in Council—would have hesitated a good deal before saying that the policy of all parties was that there should be no increase in the rate of taxation. Now I may pass on—

Mr. RYMAL. No; take them all.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I think I can find enough in them to afford plenty of amusement to the hon. member for Wentworth (Mr. Rymal), and I can see he is very much amused already, by the broad smile which illuminates his countenance at this moment. The hon. member for Iberville closed his resolution with a remarkable declaration, to which I now invite his attention:

"That that contract respecting the Canadian Pacific Railway, laid on the Table, involves violation in the above and other particulars of the settled policy in reference to the Canadian Pacific Railway, and should not be ratified till after the people have had the opportunity of expressing their opinion through the medium of a General Election."