

always more conversant with Hudibras than with Shakespeare, and with Rabelais than either; but I really did not think that the First Minister's memory, in former times at all events, would have led him to make such an inapt quotation as that with which he wound up. If I remember anything of the play of King John, the identical language he quotes is uttered by a certain Sir Richard to a certain craven Grand Duke or Grand Cross, as the case might be, who came to condign punishment afterwards at the hands of the aforesaid Sir Richard. And if I recollect anything of my Shakespeare, and I knew something of his works in former days, it was not the Grand Duke who killed the unfortunate Prince Arthur, but his own uncle, King John. I do not want to criticise too severely these utterances of the hon. gentleman, but I advise him when he next drops into poetry to take the trouble to read the whole play, and then he will be able to quote it a little more correctly. But not content with poetry, the hon. gentleman went on, as he has not infrequently done before, to invoke the spirits of my ancestors, in order that they may inflict on me such punishment as he would like to inflict if his power were equal to his will. I recollect that about seven or eight years ago the hon. gentleman could hardly make a speech in which my name figured in which the ghosts of my ancestors did not appear, until at last, in pure self-defence, I had to do a little spirit raising on my own account, and on one occasion, before a large audience at Aylmer I invoked the spirit of my esteemed grandfather. I enquired of him how he would deal with the hon. gentleman under certain circumstances, and the reply, I remember, satisfied me and the large audience I referred to, that if the First Minister had lived in my grandfather's days and indulged his predatory and other instincts then as he has done in later times, the First Minister would undoubtedly have had infinitely more cause to shudder at the doom which my ancestor would inevitably have inflicted on him than ever my ancestor would have had to shudder at me. I may further tell him that, even if it should turn out, which is not so clear, that my grandfather's opinions and my own might differ on other matters, from all I know of the character of that worthy gentleman, I feel most positively certain that in the opinion he and I would have formed as to the hon. gentleman there would have been perfect unison between grandfather and grandson. But, Sir, the hon. gentleman undertook to speak of the sentiments which actuated the United Empire Loyalists of former times. I have to tell that right hon. gentleman that I do not admit that a man who never struck one honest stroke, who never spilled one drop of blood, who never lost a dollar, who never risked a foot of land in proof of his loyalty, is quite capable of understanding the feelings and sentiments of men who sacrificed everything that men hold dear for the sake of allegiance to their country. Sir, I do not mean to say that the hon. gentleman's loyalty is not very sincere. He says it is, and he ought to know. But this I do say, that that hon. gentleman's loyalty, ever since I have known him, has proved a most lucrative investment, politically and otherwise; that his is the sort of loyalty that pays; and if he wants a further certificate of character, I am prepared to assure Her Majesty that so long as it continues to pay, She will have no more ardent and devoted servant than the present First Minister of Canada. But these are minor matters; there are other and much more important ones to which I desire to call the attention of this House. I do not at all agree, I do not at all approve of the idea or the conception of the duties, and obligations of Canadian statesmen which underlies, not merely the passage I have quoted, but almost every word of the first half of the speech delivered by the hon. gentleman to his friends and admirers at Montreal—I say that his words and the ideas they imply are of the most mischievous character, and that it is in the

interests of all of us that they should be repudiated by some person, at all events, on the floor of this House. We can gather from the language used by the hon. gentleman what his ideas are of the duties and obligations which Canadian statesmen owe to their country. For myself, I have to tell him that I stand here as the representative of a Canadian constituency, and as a Privy Councillor of Canada I am bound to give to Her Majesty or Her Majesty's representative that advice which in my heart I believe is best in the interest of the people of Canada. That is my plain duty, and that I propose to do at any cost. I can tell the hon. gentleman this, that the Canadian who does anything else, who fails to state what he believes to be for the interest of Canada, who allows himself to be silenced for any consideration whatever, is a traitor to his country. I say he is a traitor to his country. I am prepared to maintain here or elsewhere, against the hon. gentleman or against his friends, that the advice, or more correctly speaking, the warning I gave once or twice to the people of Canada, contained advice which is good for the people of the Dominion, and good also, when rightly understood, in the interests of the whole empire. But that is too large a subject to enter upon just now. What I mean to say is this, that if the view put forward by the right hon. gentleman, or implied by the right hon. gentleman, with reference to the duties and obligations which are assumed by Canadians who accept Imperial decoration be correct, if by receiving an Imperial decoration a Canadian statesman is bound to be silent when the interests of Canada require that he should speak, then, Sir, those decorations are not honors, but bribes. I wish the hon. gentleman to understand that, and it is well that the people of Canada should understand it too. Sir, the idea which the hon. gentleman has given utterance to are ideas which may suit political adventurers who have no drop of Canadian blood in their veins, no spark of honest regard for the true interests of Canada in their hearts. For myself I utterly repudiate those ideas, and I know this, that British statesmen of the highest rank, were they asked if the granting of Imperial honors to Canadian statesmen bound them to be silent when the interests of their country called upon them to speak, would repudiate the idea with the same disdain with which I repudiate it now. The truth is, that the whole tenor of the First Minister's speech is only one of a good many proofs of how far he is in reality, with all his pretence, behind the age—a proof that he is retrograde and reactionary in the highest degree. He goes to the middle ages for his fiscal policy; he takes as his guide, in the method of conducting a Government, the teachings of Sir Robert Walpole, and his ideas of free discussion are based on the times of the Stuarts and on those disgraceful periods of English history when it was ruled from the bench that the greater the truth the greater the libel, a doctrine which would suit the First Minister most admirably. Sir, I tell the First Minister that he knows very little—and perhaps it is unfortunate that he does know so little—of questions which are now seething in the public mind, questions which are not to be ignored, questions which he will soon discover, and perhaps some of his colleagues could tell him, will have to be faced before we are many years older. The hon. gentleman claims to be ultra-loyal, but I can recollect the time when the First Minister was not so ultra-loyal. It is true that at that period the First Minister was in Opposition, and it is possible that the fervent loyalty that he now professes does, sometimes, I do not say fall to zero, but experience a great cooling in the shades of Opposition. At any rate, I recollect when the First Minister was, if not the instigator of, at least the ardent sympathizer with that mob of disloyal partisans who burned the Parliament House of Canada, and pelted the Governor General, the representative of royalty, through the streets of Montreal. Sir, I recollect perfectly well the discussion which