

hon. gentleman is not in that position. A physician who is not called in is a physician who does not speak about the case of the patient; the physician who is not called in has nothing to do with it. But what has the hon. gentleman done? He has thrust himself into the patient's room, he has declared that he knew the disease, and he has prescribed. But I will come to the difference, if there is any, between what he has exactly done and what he has not done. I will tell you what he has done. He has done precisely what is done by any doctor who, when asked what are the ingredients against earthquakes (laughter) refuses to tell, and for the best reason in the world—that he does not know. But these doctors are usually quack doctors. (Renewed laughter.) In fact the hon. gentleman reminds me of a doctor we have up somewhere near Regina. He has a very peculiar notion about persons suffering from various diseases. Well, there was a young lady who was supposed to be suffering a little from constipation, and he prescribed that she should swallow a living frog. Well, it was impossible to get over the aversion of the patient, and equally impossible—supposing that aversion could be got over—that she could swallow the frog, because her larynx is not extraordinarily large, and the doctor never explained how that could be done. But he went about saying that she must swallow a live frog or she would die; yet the young lady trips round and the freshness of her complexion, the brightness of her eye, and the quickness of her step show that she has a good appetite, is well fed, has a good digestion, &c., &c. (Loud cheers and laughter) and her name is Miss Canada. (Cheers.) What does the member for South Oxford say further? He gives you an array of duty paid on this article, of duty paid on the other, and all coming out of the pockets of the tax-payers, every penny of it, he says. I admit, he says, I have never denied it, that these taxes are paid by the consumer; but, he says, they are paid by the producer too. So that you have here a series of taxes and you have this peculiar phenomenon in political economy—

Mr. McMullen. Finish your frog story.

Mr. Davin. Don't you croak too much. (Laughter.) In 1882, when I was sitting next to my hon. friend the Minister of Customs, and the hon. member for South Oxford was replying to Sir Charles Tupper, he said: "I have never denied, and I admit it and declare it, that the consumer pays the duty just as often as the earth goes round the sun, and the producer pays the duty just as often as the sun goes round the earth." But now he has advanced in his astronomy. He was a disciple of Gallileo when he declared that, but now he declares that not only does the earth go round the sun but that the sun goes round the earth (laughter and cheers), that is to say, that the consumer pays the duty and the producer pays the duty too, which, in the colloquial language I used to hear in other days, is "consumedly" absurd. (Cheers.) Now, I will not go into the question of how much the farmer would be affected, supposing it possible—

Mr. McMullen. Tell us the frog story again.

Mr. Davin. My hon. friend wants me to finish the frog story; but you see, Mr. Speaker, that not only has the hon. member for South Oxford, in the process of evolution, gone from the astronomical theory that the earth goes round the sun, but he now has got so far as to say that the sun goes round the earth as well, and my hon. friend from North Wellington is also in a process of evolution. The other night he was a tadpole; a few minutes ago you heard from his peculiar croak that he was just on the bridge between the tadpole stage and the frog stage, and now we find from the sound of the last croak that the full-grown toad stage has been reached. (Laughter and cheers.) Now, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for South Oxford makes the same statement again and again about the North-West. It has been made by others. I do not think it has ever yet been properly answered. He says in his speech that in one way and another we have spent at least a hundred millions of public money in the North-West.

Mr. Choquette. Hear, hear.

Mr. Davin. Well, Mr. Speaker, I am