

tion may have had views strongly adverse to the conclusion finally arrived at, is so palpable an attempt to make political capital that it seems to me it must fail to make any lasting impression upon the mind of any thoughtful man.

"Am I wrong in saying that there has been nothing but politics on the part of the opponents of the government from the very beginning of this agitation? (Hear, hear.) I deny that there has been any patriotism in it; that there has been any sincere desire at bottom to promote what they believed to be the interests of the country, to strengthen the imperial tie or to ensure the sympathetic and cordial co-operation of all the people of the country in the maintenance of British interests in this crisis. (Applause.)

"Happily, I believe, the cry has not only become stale, but has become nauseating in the better opinion of the people, and that there are few among the more judicious Conservatives who have not already realized that their leaders have overshot the mark in this transaction. (Cheers.) What, sir, would they do if they were to work out to its logical conclusion the idea they have been seeking to enforce upon the government and the country? They would stifle the free expression of opinion. They would absolutely muzzle individual judgment. They would have every public man, every government, answer to the clamor, the insensate and excitable cry of the newspaper press; and they would call upon the government to do this at a time when public feeling is aroused and in a state of unreasoning ferment. (Hear, hear.)

"How many of these politicians knew what was passing between the imperial and Canadian government? How many of them cared what was being done in that direction? Governments cannot get on the public platform and declare what their intentions are until they have matured them. They cannot make public the facts in their possession, and which may have come to them in confidential communications from another government.

"Yet the leader of the opposition, who has no responsibility, can resort to any device to strike a blow at the government in the hope that he may pierce their otherwise impregnable armour. He and his associates say to themselves: 'We will work upon the sentiment of the people of this country. We will make the people believe, if we can, that a portion

of the Liberal party are indifferent to imperial interests; that that portion is represented in the cabinet, and that it has paralyzed or hindered action by the government.' They say to themselves: 'This is the policy we will work out, and by this means we will do the government an injury we cannot otherwise accomplish.' Do you think I am unfairly stating the position in which the opposition has today placed itself? I think not. (Cheers.)

"I am happy to say that in my opinion they will fail of their purpose. Assuming that there were varying opinions upon the constitutional question represented in the cabinet, the fact remains that the contingent was sent and that it went in time. (Cheers.) Who sent it? The government of Canada. (Cheers.) And let me add, they would have sent another if the British government had so desired. (Renewed cheers.)

"Sir, there is one other feature of this business to which I must refer, and it is the most unfortunate of the whole—unfortunate, it appears to me, to the very party which has raised it and hopes to profit by it. It is the effort to create in the minds of the English speaking people of Canada the impression that because Mr. Tarte held to the view that parliament should be called together before action was taken in respect of this contingent, he must therefore be hostile to British interests, and in that hostility is representing the sentiments of his compatriots throughout Canada. That is where I think the foulness of this agitation is to be found. (Cheers.)

"What evidence is there to justify even the suspicion of such a thought? We have had tonight from the lips of my friend, Mr. Lemieux, a magnificent rejoinder. Cheers. He speaks for his people. He has spoken manfully. He has told you how the people of his great province feel towards Imperial interests, and how highly they value British connection. If he said aught else he would be traducing the loyal people of his province. (Cheers.) It is not a question of the success of one political party or another. It involves higher and weightier and more far reaching considerations. It touches the relations of the two great races of this portion of the North American continent, and it touches the future itself of the Dominion. Do these political agitators stop to think what may be the consequences of their conduct in this matter? I think