

a Government work. After having carried it on as a Government work for four years he advertised for tenders all over this country for a company to take it off his hands.

Sir ALBERT J. SMITH. We advertised for tenders to carry it on as a public work. Now, I would like to ask the hon. Minister at what time, in what manner, he changed his mind which he expressed fully here in 1880. He changed his mind and ignored his utterances on that occasion and came to the conclusion that it should not be built as a private enterprise.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I dare say the hon. gentleman has heard that sometimes it is easier to ask questions than to answer them.

Sir ALBERT J. SMITH. I see that is your case.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I ask the hon. gentleman why, if he considered it was wise on the part of the Government to construct the Canada Pacific Railway as a Government work and not transfer it to a private company, why, after carrying it on as a Government work for four years, he closed his career as a Minister, and the Government of which he was a member, at the end of their four years experience, advertised all over the country for a private company to come and take over the whole of this work.

Sir ALBERT J. SMITH. I will tell the hon. Minister what I will do. I think I have already answered the question satisfactorily, but I will answer it more fully, provided he will answer the question I have just put to him.

Mr. RYMAL. I presume that the second reading of this measure in relation to which the hon. gentleman has reopened the discussion on the Canadian Pacific Railway, will be acceded to, and think it is almost useless to present any piece of legislation to the House that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company desire, because it is a foregone conclusion that whatever they ask they will receive. I said last year when this matter was under discussion, that I thought the most dangerous feature of the whole thing as it then presented itself to my mind, was the absolute bondage in which the Syndicate held the Government, and as time has elapsed we have plenty of evidence that the Syndicate have only to express their desire, no matter what that desire may be, and it is immediately acceded to by the Government. If they wish to change the location of the line, that is acceded to; if they wish the legislation of a province to be ignored all they have to do is to instruct their secretary so as to intimate their wish to the Government and the legislation of a province is ignored at once, the autonomy of a province is destroyed; and I believe that this one thing will tend to a disruption of the whole Confederacy. I think there is pretty strong evidence that the Syndicate have only to ask that they may receive. Last night I saw their paid Secretary on the floor of this House, pompous and conscious of the strength that he possessed as a representative of that great Company, inflated with wine and infuriated with strong drink.

Several hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh, oh!

Mr. RYMAL. After having bulldozed the Government, after having, as a representative of the Syndicate, demanded from them what they should not have acceded to; standing here, I say, conscious of his strength, after having bulldozed the Government, insulting Parliament by insulting one of the most prominent members of the Parliament of Canada, telling him his utterances were false, false, false; that it is not so, that it is bosh, bosh! What shall we come to if the paid Secretary of that Company, who is so conscious of the strength he possesses by being its servant, can come here with impunity and insult Parliament after having bulldozed the Government? I do not wonder much at the Government being bulldozed if my suspicions are correct, and I venture to say that the man is now living who will learn of some fearful disclosures

Sir CHARLES TUPPER.

in the near or remote future, which will show that the hold which the Syndicate have upon the Government is what compels them to yield to every demand that the Syndicate may make. What is our country coming to when the representative of that Company may come on the floor of Parliament and insult the most prominent member of the whole House by giving him the lie direct, if not in so many words. I say it is a shame and a disgrace, and the Syndicate should be taught that their servants, at least, may not enter the people's House and insult the members when they are speaking upon a public question. The Government should blush to think that the representative of their masters had no better manners than that, and they should blush to think that they had sold the heritage of the people of Canada to a company who can so far forget, through its servants, what is due to the representatives of the people. But having robbed the people through the Government of their heritage I suppose they may add insult to injury. This is the first fruits of the infamous bargain they entered into last year, and when the full fruition of this bargain may be reached remains to be seen. I venture to predict that the time is not far distant when the country from one end to the other will shake off the insatiate grasp of this grinding monopoly. Now, Mr. Speaker, I was not intending to say anything, but I wished more particularly to bring up the conduct of one of the servants of the Company on the floor of this House, in order that public attention might be called to the impudent and insolent manner which this Syndicate assumes towards the representatives of the people in Parliament assembled. If the Government has been bulldozed I have no doubt there was good reason. I said a moment ago that I believe the time will come when disclosures will be made which will bring a blush of shame to the cheek of every man who has been connected with the concoction and carrying out of this infamous robbery of the Canadian people. How soon that may come remains to be seen. We know a few years ago things were going on smoothly, and the Tory party was so strong that they fancied they would have a long lease of power, but Providence, I trust it was, sent a stroke of lightning, and in a few months they were obliged to retire from the positions they had disgraced. I hope and trust that Providence, on behalf of the Canadian people, may send another stroke of lightning that will reveal some of the dark doings which I believe have taken place in connection with this transaction, for I believe the Government have done more to bring reproach upon the Canadian people and to rob them of their heritage than all other Governments combined. I asked a year ago of the hon. Minister of Railways the same question which has been put to him by the member for Westmoreland (Sir Albert J. Smith), why it was that a sudden change in the Government policy took place. When that is successfully explained to me, perhaps it will remove some of the ugly suggestions that have taken possession of my mind. I do not wish to leave Parliament and public life with the impression on my mind that any of our public men have been engaged in transactions which they are ashamed to explain. I think they should have taken Parliament into their confidence and told it why this sudden change of opinion took place. The hon. Minister of Railways will ease my mind by telling me why it was that he so suddenly changed his opinion as to the propriety of carrying on the construction of the Pacific Railway, as a Government work and giving it to a private company, and he will do much to remove some ugly impressions which have taken possession of me.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I rise, for the purpose not of discussing the question which has been asked of me by the hon. member for Westmoreland (Sir Albert J. Smith), and repeated by the hon. member who has just taken his seat, but for the purpose of explaining to