

my party was in the year 1898, when the Yukon question was before this House. The Hon. Sir Charles Tupper, the leader of the Conservative party at that time, conceived the idea, the patriotic idea, of having an all-Canadian route into the Yukon. His idea was to have the road start from Kitimaat Harbour and pass up through Canadian territory behind that strip of Yankee territory and into the Yukon country, I will not be contradicted by Sir Charles Tupper nor by any other man later on, for I know whereof I speak. With a broad spirit of patriotism Sir Charles Tupper approached the Minister of the Interior of the day, the Hon. Clifford Sifton, and induced Mr. Sifton to make that a plank in the platform of the Liberal government of the day. The question came before the country. The proposition did not commend itself to the present member for North Toronto; it did not commend itself to the Toronto 'World'; it did not commend itself to certain other gentlemen in the Conservative party. The agitation broke out and Sir Charles Tupper had reluctantly to bow in order to hold his leadership of the party and oppose his own project. I know whereof I speak. I chanced to be in Australia at the time. When I returned to Canada I found to my regret that Sir Charles Tupper had seen fit, in order as he thought to hold his party together, instead of breasting the storm, to turn around and oppose the project. The last time Sir Charles Tupper ever addressed a Conservative open caucus in Ottawa—it is no secret, because he has himself told it publicly—in his own home down on the banks of the Ottawa, he stated that in the past the Conservative party had made two mistakes. One of them was a trivial affair, the other was that it had not loyally supported the Liberal party in pushing an all-Canadian route into the Yukon. I have seen the country, Sir, both on the Manitoba school question and on the Yukon question, come to endorse the stand I took in differing from my party on those occasions, and I have seen the best men of my party acknowledge that in stepping out from my party on those two questions I was right. I have no fear, Sir, that in six months or a year from to-day, possibly a much shorter time than six months, the universal sentiment in the Conservative party will be that I have taken the right line on this matter, and that the gentlemen who have followed the lead of the hon. member for Sherbrooke, misled by his little tittle-tattle of newspaper yarns throughout the country, will discover their mistake. At any rate, I am not losing any sleep over the issue; I am standing by the dictates of my own conscience.

Now, Sir, the question of a rifle is before the people of Canada. The hon. member for Sherbrooke has been instrumental in various ways in endeavouring to create

sentiment against the government on this matter. If it were merely a question of creating a sentiment against the government, I think from my record in the past I could be trusted to do my duty for the Liberal-Conservative party to nearly as great an extent as the hon. member for Sherbrooke. Ask the Liberal-Conservatives in any constituency in the Dominion of Canada, and they will tell you that wherever my services could be of avail, they have always been at the disposal of the Liberal-Conservative candidate, and I can say without any egotism that the Hon. J. P. Whitney has on more than one occasion stated that I am possibly the only member of parliament who on all occasions has been ready in season and out of season to do his duty for the Ontario Liberal-Conservative party. What is the record of my hon. friend from Sherbrooke? What has he done for the Liberal-Conservative party? In 1904 did he not bring members on the government side of the House and demand that the Minister of Militia give him the position of principal medical officer of the militia force of Canada? Did he or did he not? He dare not deny it.

Mr. WORTHINGTON. What does the hon. gentleman say?

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. I ask the hon. member for Sherbrooke did he or did he not demand of the Minister of Militia that he be given the position of principal medical officer of the militia of the Dominion of Canada?

Mr. WORTHINGTON. I did not.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. All I have to say is that the hon. gentleman admitted it to me in the presence of Dr. Daniel, the member for St. John.

Mr. WORTHINGTON. That is absolutely untrue. He did not utter those words.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. The hon. member for Richmond and Wolfe (Mr. Tobin) also said the same thing publicly, namely, that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Worthington) had demanded from the Minister of Militia the principal medical officership for the Dominion, and then when he could not get it, threatened he would go back to Sherbrooke and run in the Tory interest. Then there was a sort of bargain made, and he agreed to take the position of principal medical officer for the province of Quebec. But the Minister of Militia, with his usual lethargy, was so slow in getting the appointment through, that the hon. gentleman was elected about the time he got it. Then we all remember that the Minister of Justice of that day (Sir Charles Fitzpatrick) had an Act passed amending the Act relating to the independence of the members of parliament in order to allow the hon. gentleman (Mr. Worthington) to draw out his pay of \$1 or \$1.25 per day, every day of his life-