

culated these rumours some months ago.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE—I must lay it to their charge. I heard my hon. friend from Cumberland announce this among many other curious things in the course of his speech at the last public meeting we attended together. He declared, that in 1875, not a single dollar was applied to the reduction of the debt.

Hon. Mr. TUPPER—No! no! I beg to say that the hon. gentleman is entirely mistaken. We had two reporters with us; the hon. gentleman had one and I another, and I defy him to prove that any such statement was made by me.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE—I contradicted him by taking the public accounts and reading from them to the meeting, showing the amount of debentures which, having matured, were redeemed.

Hon. Mr. TUPPER—Such a statement was not made by me.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE—Well, the hon. gentleman seems to have a very elastic memory. There is one thing more the hon. gentleman said, that he introduced and supported throughout a policy of imposing duties on coal and other articles. I will read an extract from the Votes and Proceedings on this point: "The Hon. Mr. Holton moved in amendment, seconded by Mr. Mills, that all the words after 'be' to the end of the question be left out, and the words 'now re-committed to a Committee of the Whole House, for the purpose of so amending the same as to repeal the duties on coal, coke, wheat and flour,' inserted instead thereof." And this was all voted upon, and the hon. gentleman voted for both motions and the amendment. Then, Sir, it was moved that the amendment on the original question be put, and the hon. gentleman voted against it. Even we find that the hon. gentleman for North Hastings, on the 4th of April moved an amendment.

Hon. Mr. TUPPER—At what stage?

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE—Never mind at what stage; it was during the Session.

Mr. MASSON.

Hon. Mr. TUPPER—This was with reference to the Customs' Bill.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE—Yes. He moved an amendment, in view of negotiations then pending at Washington, that it was expedient to repeal the duties on certain articles enumerated in section 2, flour, coal, &c. Then Mr. Lawson moved an amendment, seconded by the hon. member for North Hastings, that the word "salt," whenever it occurred, should be left out. They endeavoured to save salt, but the hon. member for Cumberland would not allow it. He did not leave a single one of his children living that he did not slaughter.

Hon. Mr. TUPPER—Can you kill the dead? The hon. member knows very well that the House killed it and not me. It was useless to attempt to resuscitate it in the face of a hostile majority, and I did that which the hon. gentleman would have done himself under the circumstances.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE—I am sorry the hon. gentleman has given this explanation, for he admits he did very little to preserve its life. He now admits that he thrashed it after it was dead. I could understand how the hon. gentleman might in a moment of passion commit murder, but I cannot understand why he should mutilate the dead. The hon. gentleman will hardly find a case in which I have voted in the early stages of a Bill for the principle of it, and afterwards against it. The hon. gentleman was bound to carry out that principle to the end, but he now shows how much and how little confidence can be placed in his political honesty.

Hon. Mr. TUPPER—I will give an instance in which my hon. friend the First Minister voted against a principle which he had voted to establish. My hon. friend stood here where I am now, and voted to make it impossible for any Government to construct the Pacific Railway in any other way than by a company, and afterwards stood where he now is and voted to build that road by the Government.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE—The hon. gentleman is merely making an assertion, and we know the value of his assertions. I will not reply to the