

SIR RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT :
How ?

SIR CHARLES TUPPER : Has not the hon. gentleman mastered the first rudiments of the question of the coal duty? Any person who knows anything about coal mining knows that, if you work a mine at a capacity of 100,000 tons, you can sell the coal at a smaller price than if you can only work it up to 50,000 tons. The output of coal in Canada during the past year has largely increased. The duty of 50c. per ton has been the means of opening up the markets of Toronto to some extent. Every person knows that, while there was a duty of 50c. imposed on coal during the last year, the cost of coal fell to the lowest price it ever was in the history of the country. We have, as the result of this Tariff, the coal mining interest stimulated without any person suffering in any section of the country, and, in adding an additional 10c., my hon. friend expects the coal of our own country to come into fair competition with the coal of the United States, in Toronto and Hamilton, and probably lower instead of increase the price of coal there. The hon. the late Finance Minister says the coal tax is an odious tax. He takes exception to the taxation of the necessaries of life. Is coal any more a necessary of life than many articles the hon. gentleman largely increased the taxation upon? He knows it is not. It is a source of warmth as clothing is; but the hon. gentleman never undertook to make clothing free. The hon. gentleman had no resource but direct taxation. He shrunk from the vista of his deficits, but had not the courage to propose a remedy. What would have been the result? Disaster to the credit of Canada. No Finance Minister could have gone to England and borrowed a dollar in the money market of the world unless he showed some intention to provide a revenue for the purpose of bearing the burdens of the country and maintaining the public credit. The works on the Welland Canal, put under contract by the hon. gentlemen opposite, must have come to a standstill. The link between English River and Keewatin must have been abandoned, because the money could not have been obtained. The policy of the present Government was to maintain

the public credit, and stimulate our industries, and it is a policy that will commend itself to the people of the country. The hon. gentleman wants to know what has been the result of that policy. I defy him to put his finger upon a single industry in Canada of any kind that is not in a better condition than it was a year ago—agriculture, fisheries, lumbering, mining, shipping and manufacturing. Therefore, my hon. friend the Minister of Finance has abundant reason to take courage, and, in view of the fact that light is again dawning upon our darkened, depressed country, the hon. gentleman may confidently look forward to the most successful results, if, after a year of the greatest difficulty, the outcome has been so satisfactory. It is impossible in an hour, it is impossible in a day, it is impossible in a year, to develop the results of such a policy as this, except in a partial manner. Any person understands that, if a ship is drifting on the rocks, although parties may board her who understand taking her off the quicksands or rocks, the momentum she had acquired will still go on for a time. Hon. gentlemen know that it is a principle of natural philosophy that the momentum is in proportion to the magnitude of the moving body, and as Canada is a body of considerable magnitude, it is impossible, even in the hands of the ablest navigator, to counteract that momentum instantly and turn the ship upon her proper course. I have witnessed, with a pride and pleasure beyond what I can express, the magnificent attitude of the intelligent people of Canada. Strong in their confidence, strong in their belief that the public affairs of this country were again in the hands of men who, in the future as in the past, would show that they knew what the public interest of the country demanded, they were willing to wait patiently for the result. The policy inaugurated by the Government is developing itself, and I have no hesitation in saying that I believe we are again fairly entered upon the path of progress and prosperity that attended the administration of my right hon. friend in days gone by. I have no doubt that hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House will come back to the Treasury Benches. I will venture to say, however, that they will never stand where I now stand until they change their policy. They can do it. Their party need