

an extremely silly and an extremely foolish man. Now, I only want to add this: We all know that the charges which have been made in regard to the officials of the Yukon district have appertained largely to the officials of the Gold Commissioner's office and to the Gold Commissioner. We know that the charge has been that the Gold Commissioner and his clerk, to use the language of the hon. gentleman, robbed the people who went into that country and attempted to carry on mining operations, that he was dishonest, and possibly guilty of malfeasance of office—that is to say, the Gold Commissioner and his clerk, as nobody else could do it because it was mining property with which they had to deal. Now, Mr. Speaker, as I am not prepared at this late hour to go into the subject fully, I desire to call the attention of the House to this fact, that in the despatches which are before us this evening in the evening papers we have a telegraphic report which comes direct from Dawson City in regard to the operations of the commission which was issued to Mr. Ogilvie for the purpose of investigating these charges, and before moving the adjournment, I will take the liberty of reading it.

**SIR CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.**  
Does the telegram come from Dawson direct?

**THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR.** If the hon. gentleman were here on Tuesday, he would be still more restless before I get through. I desire to read this report, because it is evident that it was not the patriotic sentiments which the hon. gentleman expressed before he sat down, that induced him to make this statement immediately before Good Friday, deliberately talking 7 hours so as to prevent a reply being made. A child of ten years could see what the hon. gentleman was doing. He desires that his speech shall go to the country without contradiction and that it shall be left uncontradicted for several days. The best contradiction that could be given the wholesale statements of the hon. gentleman is this: We have a telegraphic report. As to whether this is true or not, an authentic report will come along in a short time, and then the hon. gentleman will know whether it is true or not, but I fancy it is. The report is as follows:—

The Royal Commission of Inquiry opened on February 22. Ample notice was given, but only two series of charges were preferred. The first was laid by the miners' committee appointed on August 25th. The second, that of malfeasance in office, was laid by the proprietors of the "Nugget" newspaper against Thomas Fawcett. Both parties requested permission to withdraw the charges on the second day. The alleged reason was that the terms of the commission limited the investigation to charges concerning acts previous to August 25. The complaint of the prosecutors was that the investigation was too narrow on that account. They were permitted to retire, but not to withdraw the charges. Commissioner Ogilvie continues the investigation.

Mr. Fawcett was cleared completely of the malfeasance charge. No clerk in the Gold Commissioner's Office thus far has been incriminated.

One witness testified that he was employed by the Young Conservative Association of Ottawa to gather information for political purposes. The commission continues in session.

TUESDAY, 4th April, 1899.

**THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR** (Mr. Sifton), (Brandon). It is not very often, Mr. Speaker, that there is a general consensus of opinion in Canada upon any one subject; but I think that prior to the time when the member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) made his address on last Thursday evening, there was a very general consensus of opinion throughout Canada that this debate had outlived its usefulness, and that it was time for the House of Commons to get down to business. But that hon. gentleman contrived to bring a subject into the debate and to deal with it in such a way that the continuance of the debate becomes a parliamentary necessity. The debate opened, Mr. Speaker, with a very long and very vigorous speech by the respected and experienced gentleman who leads the Opposition, and he was followed by the right hon. Prime Minister in a speech which I think both the right hon. gentleman's friends and his opponents will concede to be a speech which will live in the annals of parliamentary debate. It has been complained that the right hon. gentleman was too severe with the leader of the Opposition; but, Sir, when it is considered that for the last two years the hon. gentleman who leads the Opposition has been going through the country denouncing the leader of the Government and his colleagues and all their actions in the most unmeasured way, and with the utmost freedom of language, I think the time had come for the right hon. leader of the Government to administer a rebuke to the hon. gentleman for the utterances which he had been making and which were shown to be altogether unfounded. And, Sir, I may say that when the right hon. gentleman was delivering his address, my sympathies were with him, and not with the leader of the Opposition; but since that time, while the debate has gone on, I must confess that my sympathies have been with the leader of the Opposition; because, Mr. Speaker, when it is remembered that that hon. gentleman has served his party well and faithfully for many long years, when it is remembered that whatever faults he may have had in public life, lack of loyalty or devotion to his party was not one of them, and when it is now seen that the hon. gentleman is castigated in this House by his political opponents, and day after day goes by, and not one man on the Opposition side of the House, not one of his followers, not the hon. member for York, N.B., (Mr. Foster), who sits beside him, will rise in his place to defend him, to say that he was right