

men all, some of them wearing the uniform of the British army and proudly marching to the strain of England's martial airs. And when in front of the noble temple, under the canopy of Heaven, the vast throng reverently invoked the blessing of Almighty God for the aged Sovereign and her vast dominions, a thrill passed over every one present, and each felt in his heart the conviction that, as the Roman Empire had been built up by force and violence, so it had been destroyed by force and violence; but that the British Empire lived, and could live ever, upon the eternal laws of freedom and justice.

And as it is for the British Empire as a whole, so it is for every component part of that Empire. That is the inspiration which shall ever guide us in the discharge of the duty which the Canadian people have entrusted to our care, and it is with this resolve that we, on this day, meet the Commons of Canada.

Mr. MACLEAN. Mr. Speaker, I think I owe it to myself and the newspaper with which I am connected that I should make some reference to the statements made here to-night by the hon. leader of the Opposition. That hon. gentleman has referred to slanderous statements. I can only say this, that we have had on the floor of this House to-night, in connection with the Governor General, something that is slanderous, something that is discreditable to the hon. gentleman who vilified the Governor General as he did to-night. This is not the first occasion on which that hon. gentleman has been criticised by newspapers. If I can gather anything from his speech to-night, he is saying something against the "World" and in favour of a newspaper which dubbed him "a political cracksman." Now, if the hon. gentleman has been misunderstood in regard to this question, he has only himself to blame. On Thursday of last week, on the day when the "Globe" newspaper announced the terms of this Yukon deal, the hon. gentleman found himself in Montreal early on that day. He went into the "Witness" office and asked to be interviewed, and on that occasion he made this statement.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Mr. Speaker, I wish to tell the hon. gentleman that I never was in the "Witness" office in my life.

Mr. MACLEAN. It is the "Gazette" I intended to allude to. The hon. gentleman went into the office of that paper to be interviewed, and was interviewed, and this statement was published in the "Gazette" of the following morning and also in the "World." It is dated, Montreal "Gazette," Friday, January 23, and it says:

Sir Charles Tupper left for Ottawa yesterday (Thursday) afternoon. Before returning to the capital he granted an interview to a "Gazette" representative. Questioned with reference to

the Government's Yukon policy, Sir Charles said: "I notice with very great pleasure the announcement that the Government have promptly provided for the maintenance of an all Canadian route to that great gold mining centre, towards which the eyes of the world are now strongly directed. I have no doubt that the measures that they have taken to secure the prompt construction of a sled road between the Stikine River and Teslin Lake, to be made into a good trail as soon as the snow disappears, and followed by the construction of a railway to be opened by September next, will meet with the approval of Parliament. I regard these measures of incalculable value to Canada, and shall be only too glad to give the Government the best support in my power on a question of such vital importance at this moment."

Then the hon. gentleman got on a car and came to Ottawa. Here, the same night he sent for the reporter of the Toronto "Mail" and gave out an interview with himself, showing an energy that is more than surprising in order to get his views before the public and his approval of the deal, and in the "Mail" of the following morning there was this announcement:

Ottawa, Jan. 27.—(Special.)—[Thursday.] Sir Charles Tupper was asked by your correspondent to state his views regarding the Yukon Railway. As to the arrangement made with Messrs. Mackenzie & Mann, Sir Charles Tupper said that they were men who had the capital, resources and energy to carry it out. They were probably the only men in Canada who could put the undertaking through in the time that it was specified. Sir Charles gave the Government credit for acting with such vigour as it had shown, and asserts that the opening of the Canadian route strongly urged by him upon both governments interested is the proper course to pursue.

On Friday morning that interview did not appear in the "Citizen" of Ottawa, but instead of it there appeared this rather ominous sentence in an article on the Yukon deal:

And then, think of the tremendous influence a corporation thus richly endowed will be able to wield in the lobby. There may be found supporters of the deal in unexpected quarters. The Government itself has priceless favours at its disposal in the administration of the Yukon gold fields.

The hon. gentleman in making that statement, which he did in several interviews, as leader of the Opposition, to my mind committed a serious blunder. If the Opposition have a case against the Government's policy in regard to the Yukon, it is because first of all they made that contract without consulting Parliament. That is our contention, and I hope it is a sound one. But there is another contention which I will argue as being at the basis of parliamentary government in this country, and it is this, that not only is a government bound to consult Parliament, especially within six days of the meeting of Parliament, but the leader of an Opposition is bound also to consult his followers, and not to commit them to a