

himself up to his full height as he gave utterance to this magnificent sentence :

My answer to that simply is : Canada is a nation.

It was a blotch on the map then, but yet the hon. gentleman, under the warming influence of the Imperial Institute dinner, thought that it was really a nation. He continued :

Although Canada acknowledges the suzerainty of the sovereign power, I am here to say that independence would give us no more rights than we have at the present day.

Put that alongside of the speech at Montreal, in which he declared that Canada was a blotch on the map until the treaties were denounced, and I think the right hon. gentleman will find that he will have to curb his eloquence, and allow his judgment to control it a little more. I ventured to criticise rather strongly the statement that these treaties were denounced at the instance of Canada. The hon. gentleman is a splendid opportunist ; he never loses his chance, he avails himself of every opening. He happened to be in Paris when the Belgium and German treaties were denounced, and if you read his pathetic speech on that occasion to the people of Paris, you will find that he said that he had accomplished the denunciation of the treaty—he did not say anything about Belgium—with Germany. And then, when the right hon. gentleman went a little further, and—master of that acting, which I think must be sincere, because I can hardly imagine any one doing it so perfectly in insincerity—when he pointed out with choked utterance and tears streaming from his eyes, how he had stood before the monument at Strasbourg ; then, although he did not say it, he left it to be inferred that he had the pleasure of avenging that blow on Germany by the denunciation of the treaty. At Halifax, having seen my criticism, the right hon. gentleman said :

Sir Charles Tupper was quite right in saying : “I did not get the treaties denounced ; it was Mr. Fielding.”

I beg pardon of the Finance Minister for naming him, but this is a case which really requires it. The Premier there stated it was entirely due to Mr. Fielding. He explained to the Halifax audience :

But when Mr. Fielding came with his tariff and gave a preference to British goods, then, Sir, the British nation, finding that we were making the sacrifices ourselves, and doing it without asking any reward, generously came forward and granted what had been heretofore refused. This credit, I say, is due altogether to my friend, Mr. Fielding.

Now, we have it at last, that in the person of the distinguished Finance Minister of Canada, we see the man who was in at the death, the man who succeeded in the denunciation of the German and Belgian treaties. But, Sir, that is not true.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Yes, I will put my hon. friend the Finance Minister on the stand to prove that there is not a word of truth in it. Some people may imagine that when treaties are denounced, it is not an important matter to know who denounced them. But in my mind, it is important, and for this reason : I say that Canada obtained the support, as she has been in the habit of obtaining for the last dozen of years—I speak from personal experience—and the enthusiastic and active co-operation of every representative of the colonies in Great Britain. I say I would be an ingrate if, after Canada had enjoyed again and again at my instance the co-operation, and the successful co-operation—

An hon. MEMBER. Hear, hear.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. What does the hon. gentleman wish to call attention to ? Does the hon. gentleman think that, if one is dealing with a question in which he has been personally interested, there is anything objectionable in stating the fact ? I think not. At all events, it appears to me scarcely seemly to make an interruption of that kind. I say that at my instance, again and again, on occasions of the greatest importance to Canada, I invited every representative of a British colony to meet at my office, where I put before them the measures which I wished them to support, and obtained for those measures their hearty support and co-operation ; and we went in a body to the Colonial Office, or to the office of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, or to whichever office the question to be dealt with appertained ; and I say that I would be an ingrate if, after having secured the combined influence of all the representatives of the colonies, given by them most heartily and fully, I threw them aside when I ceased to need them any longer. I say nothing would be more unseemly than for any person to put forward on behalf of Canada the claim that this thing was done by or at the instance of Canada alone, which, as I have said before, is not true ; and I now give the proof of the hon. Minister of Finance of what I say. He was speaking at the Cutlers' feast down in Sheffield, in the presence of gentlemen who would have resented it if any attempt had been made to claim for Canada the exclusive credit of the denunciation of those treaties ; and this is what he said :

In conclusion, I have to say that the action of Her Majesty's Government, at the request of the Colonial Premiers—influenced possibly by the action of Canada—the action of Her Majesty's Government in denouncing those treaties, which seemed to be a barrier between the mother country and the colonies, is one which deserves and receives the profound gratitude of the people of Canada.

I endorse every word of this, which was uttered in good taste ; and it was infinitely more to the interest of Canada that a statement of that kind should be made and that