

April 30, 1874

\$2,450,000 for 1873-1874. Instead of it being true there was nothing additional contained in that budget except a paltry \$40,000 for the harbour of Saint John, he found that \$271,000 were asked for works not entered upon, and for which no obligation rested with the present Government. Was he (Hon. Mr. Tupper) not right in saying this was an attempt to escape from the horns of the dilemma on which he (Hon. Mr. Cartwright) was impaled? Besides this \$271,000 required for new works \$380,000 more in addition would be necessary to complete them, so there was an expenditure of over half a million of dollars introduced into the budget by the economical Finance Minister who looked with dread and forbiddingly on the commercial prospects and demanded three million dollars of additional taxation from the people. Yet he came there with a half million dollars of additional expenditure for a class of works that he and his colleagues had continuously denounced for years. They found that the hon. gentleman had increased other services. [*Editor's note: Material left out here.*]

**Hon. Mr. TUPPER**, continuing his speech, said that they found that the hon. gentleman had increased other services connected with the Government in all to the extent of \$15,000,000. They had also increased the public works chargeable to capital no less than another one and a half million. He did not intend to follow, line by line, the exhaustive speech of the Finance Minister. He had, however, to reiterate that he disingenuously attempted to escape from the dilemma in which he found himself. He maintained that it was not necessary to impose a single dollar of additional taxation on the people.

With regard to the present financial scheme, he desired to make a suggestion, if it were not too late, and he was encouraged by the fact that the hon. gentleman had admitted, though not in his place, that he had miscalculated the true resources of the country. He (Hon. Mr. Tupper) was encouraged by this to venture another suggestion, and that was that, instead of imposing the three millions of new taxation and instead of deranging the trade and business of the country, and instead of trying a new experiment, he would let well alone and rest upon the tariff which he (Hon. Mr. Tupper) had shown him he might rely upon to yield an additional one and half million dollars year after year.

He considered it would be advisable to rest upon that, and, if the works were necessary, to charge them to capital account. These works were generally charged to capital account and not to income, and the late Government was only induced to charge them to the current account because they had more money than they knew what to do with; but when the Finance Minister came face to face with new taxation he was bound to charge every dollar to capital account, and thereby make the interest on the amount chargeable to the country. Only \$1,000,000 additional were required to complete the whole of the works in question after the ensuring year, and if this amount was added to the debt, to which it was comparatively a very small addition, the necessity for additional taxation would be removed.

He had endeavoured to show that the trade interests and the revenue of this country received no additional taxation. Look where they would, to the east, west, north and south—look in every

direction they would, except into the inner consciousness of the Finance Minister himself, and they found everything in the most prosperous condition that any country was in on the face of the globe. He wished to call the attention of the Hon. Finance Minister, who told them that he was going into the market of the financial world to borrow money, to the effect of the cause. He would have to borrow nearly fifteen million this year, and he would ask him whether his position was going to be improved by the speech he delivered in this House, and whether, considering the existing commercial prosperity of the country and in the state of the revenue, it was not criminal for a Finance Minister upon whose words depended the credit of the country to have put into the mouth of the Governor General such an unfounded statement as to the commercial condition and revenue of the country, and then following it up by his financial statement.

He had no hesitation in saying that any financier who placed confidence in his statements would draw back with alarm from Canada. He would draw the attention of the House to this fact, that the Finance Minister put deliberately on record that the Government of this country was committed to a policy which would pledge it to go to England to borrow thirty million per annum for seven years. Was that the way to establish the credit of the country? The hon. gentleman, before he sat down, showed that no such moral obligation rested with the late Government or with the present.

The result of the Speech from the Throne had been to reduce the value of Canadian bonds in England, and money could not be obtained now on the terms that otherwise could be. As the hon. gentleman looked at the trade and business of the country, he could find no excuse for the course he had pursued, except, having allowed the summit of his ambition to move him to use his position for the purpose of impressing upon the people in the future, that whatever he might have been in the past he was not a false prophet.

When the hon. gentleman submitted his tariff to the House, on the spur of the moment he (Hon. Mr. Tupper) characterized it as a meddling and mischievous tariff. The hon. gentleman had told them that night that he thought the tariff must be pretty near right because everybody complained of it. If it was the hon. gentleman's ambition to submit a tariff that would not find a friend, he (Hon. Mr. Tupper) congratulated him on his success. There was not an independent man in the House who did not feel that a very heavy blow had been struck at the best interests of Canada by that tariff. He would not elaborate this argument, because they had most abundant evidence in support of it.

He would now notice a few of the features of the proposed tariff. The Hon. Finance Minister had said that it was neither a Free Trade nor a Protection Tariff. It was in fact a hybrid tariff, such as might have been expected from a Free Trade Premier and a Protectionist Finance Minister. The subject of tobacco he would not dwell upon, as it was an article which he detested in all its forms and which he believed was of a very injurious nature, but there was no human power that could be brought to bear that would prevent the great mass of the people from using it. The poorer they were the more tobacco they used, and on this account he was opposed to the