

and the men paid it. And what do you think was their excuse for not paying it? It was this, that Mr. Chew had not secured the sale of the dock at all, but that it was secured by a certain member of parliament who is not in his place in the House at present, and to whom they had to pay \$600 for putting through the deal. Why, Sir, it is notorious from one end of the country to the other that members of parliament are guilty of acts of this kind. Take the case of the hon. member for Digby (Mr. Copp) as heralded in the public press. Has he been reprobated by this government? I have read of the case in the public press and I have read the minutes of the town council. This government was to build a dock in the town of Digby, and the hon. member for Digby goes to the town council, and makes an open bargain that he will use his position as a member of parliament to get a large grant for the construction of a dock in that town; and, if my memory serves me rightly, he was paid \$500 on account, and was to be paid \$2,000 more on the completion of the dock. Surely it is the duty of the government to take notice of these matters. Surely this case has been brought to the attention of the Minister of Finance, who comes from that province. Surely he is aware of it; and when I make the statement that public morality in this country has sunk to a lower depth than ever known, I make a statement well within the mark. This condition of affairs is notorious. The corruption practiced in the various ridings is well known. It is well known that in connection with the whisky permits in the Yukon, vast sums of money were drawn from the pockets of men who made princely fortunes out of the liquor trade in that country, and who were compelled to disgorge a considerable share of their profits in helping to keep the Liberal party in office. It is well known that there was any number of other deals of a similar character, and only one hon. gentleman has had the courage to stand up in this House and declare that he will back up propositions of this kind whenever they come his way. Perhaps some of those hon. gentlemen who laugh when I describe the degradation of public opinion in the province of Ontario are among those who have participated in these illicit deals. But, thank God, there is still a healthy public opinion in our province, which will no doubt assert itself when the time comes, and I shall welcome the day when the fight is brought on. Some day this government will have its history written, and there will be a striking contrast between the record of the right hon. the First Minister of to-day and the public careers of Sir John Macdonald and Sir Charles Tupper and other great men who contributed largely to guiding the destinies of this Dominion. History will show that Sir John Macdonald and Sir Charles Tupper were men imbued with broad national ideas, men who carried to

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completion the work of consolidating this great Dominion as a vast adjunct of the British empire. And it will be shown that these men did great work in the face of the most bitter opposition. It will be shown that, in the teeth of the most violent criticism of the Liberal leaders, they succeeded in pushing to completion the construction of that great transcontinental railway which now spans this Dominion and the history of which will live in the minds of Canadians for centuries to come. History will show that to the wise policy of these men was due the opening up of our great Northwest and the building up in that great country of the homes of millions. It will show also that they inaugurated a tariff and a fiscal policy, the merits of which are established beyond gainsay by the simple fact that hon. gentlemen opposite, who have denounced that policy for years, felt compelled to continue it almost in its entirety. The unerring verdict of time will show that the leaders of the Conservative party were not actuated by any sectional or provincial spirit, that the policy of Sir John Macdonald was the same in one province as in the other, and that his policy commanded the esteem and the support of all classes. It would be, Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of this Dominion as a whole if the present government did not sit there entrenched, as it does, behind a majority, which the Minister of Trade and Commerce declared in Toronto is a menace to the whole Dominion—the majority from the province of Quebec. But so long as electoral campaigns are carried on in the province of Quebec on the lines suggested by the hon. member for Labelle, so long will that menace, against which the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce protested, continue. I have the honour to have in the riding of Simcoe which represent, a large French vote, and I regret to say that very little of that vote comes my way. And the reason is this. Whenever there is an election in that district, men like the hon. member for Bonaventure (Mr. Marcell) and the hon. Mr. Evanturel, Speaker of the local legislature of Ontario, come down there and excite the people, not by discussing political questions but by appealing to their racial and religious prejudices. The sole issue which these men raise is the nationality and religion of the right hon. the First Minister. There was a time in the township of Tiny when the elections turned on political questions, but that day is past and gone. These hon. gentlemen should remember however, that, if they gain a trifling success in the French vote, they run the risk of incurring a greater loss in the English vote.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Hear, hear.

Mr. BENNETT. Let me tell the right hon. gentleman that such is the case. Such a policy cuts both ways, and I can only say