

HON. SIR CHARLES TUPPER'S SPEECH

ON

THE BUDGET.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Mr. Speaker, in continuing the important discussion which was opened here on Friday last, and which dealt with the great question at issue between the two parties in this country, I desire to say, as I have always said, that I have no intention of discussing the question of Free Trade and Protection as an abstract question. I would be quite prepared to admit that, even if in England, the policy adopted long since, and now in force, of Free Trade, was the best policy that could be adopted for that country, it would in no way affect the issue between the parties here. I hold that, notwithstanding the very striking evidence that we have that many of the ablest and most intelligent minds in that great country are seriously considering this important question, and are entertaining very grave doubts as to the wisdom of the policy of Free Trade for the Empire.

Mr. MACKENZIE. Hear, hear.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. The hon. gentleman says hear, hear; but I would like to ask him if there is no significance in such a result as was recently witnessed in the great constituency of the North Riding of Yorkshire—

Mr. MACKENZIE. No; there is not.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Where this question was made a battle ground of party, and where one of the most important and influential constituencies in the Empire reversed its verdict and pronounced unequivocally in favor of a policy of Protection, even to the extent of a duty on corn? Well, Sir, as I said before, if I were quite prepared to admit that the policy of Free Trade was the best to be adopted in the British Empire and by Great Britain, I should, at the same time, maintain that, situated as Canada is, we have no alternative but to adopt the policy now in force in this country. It is impossible, Sir, and any one must admit it who takes the trouble to look at the position Canada occupies, with a comparatively small population of between