

Mr. ANGLIN: Why did you not purchase more?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER: I am afraid that hon. gentlemen are very hard to satisfy. All I can say is that if we had not been on the spot, and the negotiations had not been managed as they were, we would not have been able to have purchased a quarter of that quantity at the price. It was the last purchase made at that price, because when it was known that there was a contract for 50,000 tons of steel rails on the market, the price went up at a bound. I am afraid it will be a very long time before we, or our successors, will meet with the same good fortune in relation to this matter. I may say to some hon. gentleman, who seemed to think that owing to the defeat of the Beaconsfield Administration, all hope of this Government obtaining anything from England, is gone, that we have no reason to distrust a Liberal Administration any more than a Conservative Administration, and I would ask any person who knows anything of the political principles propounded by gentlemen on this side of the House, whether there is any Liberal party in England, or any man likely to be in a Liberal Cabinet in England—under Mr. Gladstone, Lord Granville, or Lord Hartington—who is more advanced in Liberal principles than the hon. gentlemen who sit on this side of the House. There has no doubt been a great change of parties in England, and if the Conservative party have lost power there, it has been the means of bringing into power an Administration who are no more committed to Liberal principles and a Liberal policy than the hon. gentlemen who sit on this side of the House.

Mr. RYMAL: I suppose you will hardly rejoice at the change.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER: I may tell the hon. gentleman who interposed, that I am not dismayed at the change. I believed the interests of Canada are just as safe in the hands of Lord Cardwell, as Colonial Minister, as they were in the hands of Sir Michael Hicks-Beach. Who was Mr. Cardwell? He was the man who took up and went heart and soul into the great question of the Confederation of British North America. He discharged that duty in the most able and

energetic manner, and his successors had merely to carry out what had really been accomplished by the Liberal Administration. The Prime Minister of this Government, when in England had a highly satisfactory conversation with the gentleman who is not unlikely to hold the seals of the Colonial Office, Mr. Forster. That gentleman, the other day, in his speech delivered at the Colonial Institute, said:

“His friend, Sir John Macdonald, came over to this country not long ago to get a guarantee for the Pacific Railway, and he (Mr. Forster) was not at all sure that it would not be advisable if the Mother Country were to be very liberal in these matters.”

It will be seen, therefore, that notwithstanding the fall of the Beaconsfield Administration, there is every prospect of the Government of Canada being sustained and upheld in this great national enterprise. We have here evidence that in the great country to which we owe a loyal allegiance, there is in both political parties a keen appreciation of the importance of our obtaining the great national highway now under consideration. I ventured, last year, to express the belief that the Imperial Government would feel that, in the opening up of the great Canadian North-West to the settlement of inhabitants of the Mother Country, a policy would be propounded that would meet with the approval of Imperial statesmen. That idea was laughed to scorn by the hon. gentlemen opposite. It was to them a matter of derision, but subsequently Lord Beaconsfield came out in an elaborate eulogium on the great national resources of British North America, and he declared to the people of England the vital importance it was to the Empire that her sons, who were obliged to expatriate themselves for the purpose of bettering their condition, could seek a home in the fertile lands of British North America, under the same flag beneath which they had formerly lived. I must now turn the attention of the House, for a few moments, to the authority that was given to the Government at the last Session of Parliament, in relation to this great work, and the duty that was imposed on us. I think I will convince the House (and the hon. member for West Durham—I do not even despair of convincing him) that during