

House of Commons Debates.

FOURTH SESSION—EIGHTH PARLIAMENT.

SPEECH

OF

HON. CLIFFORD SIFTON, M.P.

ON

THE ADDRESS

OTTAWA, 30TH MARCH AND 4TH APRIL, 1899

THURSDAY, 30th March, 1899.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). It is manifestly impossible for me to attempt any reply to the lengthy speech of hearsay, mingled with insinuations which the hon. gentleman from Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) has given; and it is necessary, therefore, to content myself to-night with moving the adjournment of the debate. However, before doing so I may make a remark or two. I understand that my hon. friend from Pictou is not going to be in the House when it reassembles. I may be permitted to express my regret that after the language that he has used in reference to myself this evening, he is not going to be present when parliamentary rules will permit me to reply to him.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. If the hon. gentleman will postpone his reply, I will be back.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Will the hon. gentleman be here on Tuesday?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. No.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I cannot congratulate the hon. gentleman on the nature of the speech that he has made, when he was aware of the fact that he was not going to be here when a reply could be

made to him. That, however, does not particularly affect the merits of the case, although it may affect the esteem in which the hon. gentleman may be held by members of the House. I desire, further, to say, before moving the adjournment of the debate, that very much of what the hon. gentleman has insinuated, if not stated, I know to be false, I know it to be altogether unfounded. Many of the other things, of course, I have no personal knowledge of, though I shall deal with them to some extent when I have an opportunity of doing so. The insinuations which the hon. gentleman has interlarded throughout his speech, that there was some personal relation between myself and any impropriety of any official in the Yukon district, I characterize as absolutely and entirely and altogether untruthful. I give the hon. gentleman credit for having sense enough to know that they are untrue. I cannot imagine that the hon. gentleman who has been so long in public life, has not sense enough to know that a Minister of the Crown would not be improperly connected with any improper act of any officials in that distant country, if such improper act there was. He will find out before he gets through with this transaction that if he has believed what he has tried to lead this House to believe, and tried to lead this country to believe, if he has entertained that belief, he has been