

When I read this speech I said, the late Minister of Finance has not such a very depreciatory view of the gentlemen on this side of the House, as I supposed he had. He says—I understood it so when I read it first—that the gentlemen around me were men of ability, and I would not accept their suggestions. But let us see.

“ Could destroy the market for their barley by destroying the malt producing interest of Canada.”

I began to think, who was it sitting around me of the able men, my colleagues and those supporting us, who took exception to the legislation which we introduced. I could not recollect any one of my colleagues or any member on this side of the House. The gentleman who did take exception was the ex-Finance Minister, the present member for South Huron, and therefore the remark must have applied to him, as “ the able men around me.”

“ As Sir Leonard Tilley had done most wantonly. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) The course followed had been suggested to him (Sir Richard), but, on enquiry he found that, if he started in that direction, he might give American maltsters the opportunity which they had long been seeking of making our action the ground of excluding Canadian malt. He therefore abstained. Sir Leonard Tilley took a different course. He put on a duty, and, in so doing, struck a blow not only at an important Canadian industry, but at the interest of our barley-growing counties, because it was of great importance to farmers that, if there should be for a time a surplus of barley, it should be malted in our own country, and held over until such time as a rise in the price occurred. Now they were entirely in the hands of Oswego merchants and American maltsters.”

This is the report of the speech made in which a charge is brought against the Government in reference to this matter. Well, Sir, I am here represented as a most obstinate Minister of Finance. The gentleman opposite represents himself in this case as the pliant Minister of Finance. I have heard the hon. gentleman and his friends opposite speak of the Government, and of myself as Finance Minister as being too pliant, and say that all the people had to do was to come and ask that certain concessions should be made to certain interests, and those concessions were made at once. That is a different character, from what is given here. Here I was obstinate and would not take the advice of able men around me. And, Mr. Speaker, the general impression of those with whom I have had any conversation on the subject since 1878 was that that hon. gentleman opposite was the obstinate man who would not take any advice, who would not be influenced by any suggestions that were made. Now, let us see; is it a fact that the action of this Government had anything to do with this increase of duty on malt in the United States? No, Sir; none whatever; and,