

tutes that change. I was under the impression that the hon. gentleman did not owe his seat in this House to any change in popular sentiment in British Columbia as between the political parties, but to the unfortunate circumstance that the Government of which I had the honour to be the head was represented in the election contest by two supporters, two gentlemen who offered themselves as Conservatives with the hon. gentleman against them; with the result that the hon. member for Vancouver sits here having polled a minority of 450 votes. So far as British Columbia is concerned, it appears that the Government do not owe their majority in this House to any change of sentiment in the province of British Columbia, but to the unfortunate circumstance that we had too many candidates in the field, that two strong supporters of the Government of which I had the honour to be the head competed on that occasion for a seat in this House, and thus enabled the hon. gentleman to sit here, representing, as he does, a minority of 450 of the votes polled.

Now, Sir, I may say with reference to the remarks made by the hon. member for Gaspé (Mr. Lemieux), that I listened to them with great attention, and with deep regret that I was not able to follow more carefully the expression of his sentiments in the beautiful language in which they were conveyed. But I may say that I was a little surprised to learn from that hon. gentleman that the farmers and the fishermen had high hopes of deriving great benefit from the recent change of Government. I was under the impression that the late Government, and the Liberal-Conservative party for the last eighteen years, had done a great deal to promote the interests of the fishermen and of the farmers of Canada; and I was under the impression that there was no portion of this Dominion in which the advantage resulting from the efforts of a Conservative Government had been more marked than in the province of Quebec. I may be wrong, but I believe that in connection with the efforts made by the late Government, and by the very able man who was placed at the head of the dairy department, great services were rendered to the farmers of Canada, and in a very marked degree to the farmers of the province of Quebec. I may also remind the hon. gentleman that the Conservative Government even exposed themselves to the charge by hon. gentlemen then sitting on this side of the House, of becoming dairymen, and in fact of lowering the dignity of a government, by the efforts they made to develop the various industries in which the farming population were so deeply interested. Now, Sir, it may also be within the memory of the House that on a certain occasion a treaty was submitted to this House by the late Right Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald, the Washington Treaty of 1871; and the House

will recollect that under that treaty an award was made in favour of the Government of Canada, by which Canada obtained some five millions and a half, a million of which went to Newfoundland. It will be remembered that that treaty made by the Right Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald as one of Her Majesty's High Commissioners at Washington, was most strenuously opposed in this House by the Liberal party. Hon. gentlemen opposite then sitting on this side of the House gave the most vehement opposition to that treaty, which, however, was carried to a successful completion, and under which the sum of \$4,500,000 was received from the award of the Commission at Halifax, as representing the increased value of our fisheries over those of the United States of America. It will be remembered that the policy of the Liberal-Conservative Government was to treat that money as the property of the fishermen, and the interest which it represented, which has increased recently from \$150,000 to \$160,000 a year, has been annually distributed among the fishermen as an earnest and an indication of the deep interest that the Liberal-Conservative Government and party took in that very important and interesting class of people.

Now, Sir, I do not intend to say more upon that subject at this moment; but while tendering my personal congratulations to my hon. friend who has attained the high position of First Minister of the Crown in Canada, I desire to express my deep regret at the mode in which that object was attained. I say my deep regret, because, Sir, no person would be more proud, no person would be more pleased than myself, to see a gentleman of the nationality of my hon. friend occupying that distinguished position. But so far as my knowledge goes, I believe it is the first time in the history of parliamentary government in which any gentleman has attained the triumph which that hon. gentleman has attained, without having succeeded in obtaining a majority upon any of the great issues upon which the two parties went to the country.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I find that statement creates a little amusement on that side of the House, but perhaps, I may be permitted to point out the reasons and the grounds upon which I make the statement that that hon. gentleman did not succeed in obtaining a majority on any of the great issues that were submitted by the two parties when we went to the country. The hon. gentleman is aware that in 1878 a very sharp issue was created between the two great parties in this country. The Government of which the hon. the First Minister was then a member, and of which the hon. member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright) was the Finance Minister, were pressed very urgently by the Opposition of