

care lest by ignoring these claims and trifling with these demands we do not jeopardize the existence of our new empire in the great North-West. I move in amendment, that all the words after "That" be struck out, and the following inserted:—

This House do resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider of the condition, complaints and demands of Manitoba and the North-West Territories, with a view to devise means for remedying any well-founded grievances and complying with any reasonable demands.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I think if the hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat, had been sincerely desirous of promoting the interests of the people who are now inhabiting Manitoba and the North-West Territories, he would have adopted a different course from that which he has adopted to-night. I do not think, Sir, that he would have proposed that this House should resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, when he knew his motion must be treated as a want of confidence motion by the Government. If the hon. gentleman had been so desirous of giving fair and full consideration to the important questions to which he has alluded, I think, Sir, he would, at an earlier period of the Session, have given notice of the motion which he has submitted for the consideration of the House; he would have taken an opportunity of making that motion when it would have been in the power of the Government to entertain the proposal he has made. But, Sir, I think there is another reason which has induced the hon. gentleman to adopt the course which he has adopted, of submitting this motion as an amendment to the motion to go into Committee of Supply, and of moving it at a time, when he knew there was no option on the part of the Government, but to meet his motion by a direct negative. After listening to the hon. gentleman, I am not at all surprised that he should have taken the course he has taken. Why, Sir, what will the people of Manitoba and the North-West Territory think when they find that their great champion in this House, the hon. gentleman who has placed his motion in a position to compel the Administration and its friends to vote it down by a direct negative, has occupied the attention of the House for the length of time the hon. gentleman has occupied it, without venturing to endorse one single ground of complaint made by the parties who have complained. The hon. gentleman says, and says rightly, that it would be criminal to adopt any course which would be calculated to excite discontent in that country, and yet I ask what has the hon. gentleman been doing himself for the last hour. I ask if he has not adopted to the utmost extent of his power, all the means he possesses of inciting that very discontent which he deplures; and yet I am proud to know that in his review of the action and policy of this Government he has not ventured to put his finger on one single charge or ground of complaint, one single demand for redress, that he says himself that he is prepared endorse. The only points to which he committed himself in the slightest degree, or uttered a single word which would enable the people of Manitoba and the North-West Territories to hold him to the opinions he advanced, were as to the reservations of the lands in southern Manitoba and in the Mile Belt; and he, himself, admitted that the Government had acted wisely and well in having removed these restrictions. So, the only point on which the hon. gentleman has ventured to join in the complaints which have been made, and endorse those complaints, the only point on which he has not guarded himself, and taken care to guard himself effectually, against being held or committed to sanction or approve of these complaints, he himself admits the Government have already swept away all cause of complaint. And yet, Sir, the hon. gentleman would stand and pose here as the champion and advocate of the people of Manitoba and the North-West Territories. Why, Sir, I do not wonder that the hon. gentleman took the course he did. I do not wonder, when he came to refer to the demands of the people

of that country in the terms that he did, that he was compelled to adopt the extraordinary course of refusing, directly and in the most pointed manner, half a dozen times over, to be himself held committed to approving of or sanctioning these complaints. Why, Sir, the hon. gentleman knew that if he endorsed these complaints, instead of attacking the present Administration he would have been attacking the previous Administration, of which he was a supporter. The hon. gentleman knows that all the grounds of complaint he referred to, could be held to be infinitely stronger as applied to his own friends, when they were charged with the duty of administering the public affairs of this country, than they could as against the present Administration. The hon. gentleman knows that the policy of this Government has been a policy of steady, unvarying advocacy and support of everything that it was believed would develop and promote the interests of the people of the North-West Territories. The hon. gentleman knows, Sir, as every member of this House knows, that it would be impossible for the most paternal Government to conserve and preserve and promote the interests of the people of any country to a greater extent, to make them the subject of greater care and consideration, than this Government have made the interests of the people of Manitoba and the North-West Territories. Why, Sir, the hon. gentleman knows that no sooner had the North-West Territories been brought within the confines of Canada, no sooner had we been charged with the administration of that large and valuable territory than we came down to Parliament—to do what? Why, Sir, to propose a measure which it was believed would do more to promote the prosperity and development of that country than all the measures that could be conceived for that purpose—that was the construction of a Canadian Pacific Railway. The hon. gentleman knows how we were met. He knows that instead of receiving the aid and co-operation and support of himself and his friends on that side of the House—he knows that from the first hour the measure was propounded down, I may say, to the present hour, all our efforts were systematically antagonized. All our efforts in initiating that great work, upon which the future of that vast country was entirely and completely dependent, were met and opposed at every stage and step by these hon. gentlemen. The hon. gentleman knows right well that the Government of this country staked its position and lost it in the effort to construct the Canadian Pacific Railway. Then, Sir, what more? We went out of power; and when we came back, what was the position of affairs in Manitoba and the North-West? From the day these hon. gentlemen were charged with the administration of public affairs—from the first hour they came into power down to the hour they left it, what was the progress made by Manitoba and the North-West? Why, Sir, the hon. gentleman knows that on the day they went out of power, by their own testimony, out of the mouth of their own Finance Minister on the floor of this Parliament, they declared that the lands in North-West were not worth 25 cents an acre.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Nonsense.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Yes; and the hon. gentleman himself has admitted it on the floor of Parliament during the present Session.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Distinctly, no.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I say the hon. gentleman has been again and again charged by myself on the floor of the House with having refused to secure the construction of the Georgian Bay Branch under Mr. Foster's contract, by granting him 20,000 acres of land per mile, as they were pledged by the contract to give him, and giving 25 cents an acre instead. The hon. gentleman declared that the contract could have been completed if they had given 25 cents an