

sugar, the result of which has been that the great bulk of that quality of sugar now in use in Canada comes from that quarter, etc. Hence it follows that if our trade is to be encouraged or sustained, such exceptional legislation must be met by corresponding legislation on our part."

MR. JONES (Halifax): Hear, hear.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD: And this is the retaliatory policy the hon. gentleman speaks of.

MR. JONES: Exceptional.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD: Exactly, that is exactly the policy of this side of the House. So long as there was such a policy obtaining in the United States the people of this country must take means to meet it. Canada must be, in the words of the Minister of Militia, "always alive to the interests of our people," and take steps to protect the people against a policy which was injurious to their interests.

MR. JONES (Halifax): Hear, hear; I quite agree with the hon. gentleman.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD: However, he wished to say a few words with reference to the motion before the House. The hon. gentleman who moved it, did not pretend to assume that he moved it in the interests of Nova Scotia. He did not pretend to say that it was in the interest of the coal owners. On the contrary, it was moved, as the hon. gentleman admitted, for the purpose of trying what metal the leader of the Opposition was made of, with a view to testing his sincerity; and in order to put him, as the hon. gentleman thought, in a false position, he was willing to make a motion at the wrong time, in the wrong way, and with the knowledge that he was going to accumulate against the interest which he professed to represent, probably the largest vote which would be given in this House on this question. He, a very obsequious, a very continuous, and a very humble follower of the Government, was to make himself the means of accumulating against the coal interest the vote of the whole Liberal party, the whole of the Ministry, and to bring down upon himself by his motion the statement by a Nova Scotia member, and a

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member of the Ministry, that his motion was absurd, and the consequences would be disastrous to the country. He (Mr. MacKay) would go down to his constituents, and they would know that he brought the motion up for party purposes, and for the purpose of destroying or prejudicing the chances of the coal owners to get the relief they wanted. He (Sir John A. Macdonald) would like to be near when they met him.

MR. MacKAY: You would receive a very warm reception.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD said he had no doubt he would receive a good reception if he went down. The hon. gentleman had studiously set every other interest against the coal interest. In voting against his (Sir John A. Macdonald's) resolution, which supported the protection of all interests, he had voted to set every interest against him. He had voted to set the whole of Western Canada against it by voting against a duty on wheat and flour, and to set all the rest of Canada against it by voting against a duty on corn and oats, and no doubt his constituents knew it. He prepared his motion with a view to preventing as many as possible from voting for it. The coal owners only asked a duty of 50c. a ton, but he asked 75c., in order to shock the Western people, who were consumers of American coal. Then he made it a duty on all kinds of coal, although there was no anthracite coal in Cape Breton, and the coal owners were quite willing to accept a duty of 50c. a ton on bituminous coal.

AN HON. MEMBER: No.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD said of course they would be glad to have a duty on anthracite coal as well, but they would be quite satisfied with the minor duty. He (Sir John A. Macdonald) would be quite justified in voting against his resolution, but he was going to vote for it.

MR. MACKENZIE: That is against your argument.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD said he had two reasons for voting for it—a trade reason and a political reason. The trade reason was, that it was a step