

ever advocated unrestricted reciprocity. He was for preferential trade with Britain on the Canadian hustings prior to the election, and pointed out the great advantages which would accrue to this country if they could get that preference, as to which my hon. friend says we want to get everything and give nothing. But as soon as he got into England, surrounded by free traders, he belied—that is an Anglo-Saxon word and perhaps a little too strong—he took a different view, and declared they wanted nothing from England and did not ask it, but was willing to give them all they had to give. I will not pursue that subject further, but I make the statement, that there is not a single principle that they advocated at the time when they were out of office that they have not violated since they came into power. But what I am going to point out—and I propose to close with this—is the divergence of opinion which exists between the members of the cabinet, and which is opposed to the principles of responsible government and parliamentary doctrine laid down by Mr. Gladstone, which I have in my hand, that when one minister differs from another he must go out of the government, that in no case can a man divest himself of his individual responsibility—that no members of the government can divest themselves of responsibility for the utterances of any one of the Cabinet, that what one does they are all responsible for. Let us look at the position these gentlemen occupy. It will be remembered that Mr. Blair repudiated Mr. Tarte in a speech delivered at Restigouche. Perhaps I should say the Minister of Railways and Minister of Public Works, but the other mode of expression is a great deal shorter. He repudiated Mr. Tarte in a speech delivered at Restigouche on the question of sending a contingent to South Africa. What did he say upon that occasion? He said: It is true Mr. Tarte may hold certain views upon the question, and that he had a right to hold them, but the Cabinet was not with him and he did not have his way. That may be quite correct, and the statement made that he had a right to his individual opinions, no one disputes, but what we do dispute is that he had a right to go out on the stump and tell the people he disapproved of what had been done, and then remain in the Cabinet. It reminds me of one of the

English statesmen of whom we read about, I forget the work now, but the statement is that when he left the Cabinet door he said to the other Minister what did we decide upon in reference to this: 'Well,' he says, 'don't you know?' And the other minister says: 'Oh, I have forgotten, but if we have to lie about it we must all lie alike. There must be no diversity of opinion.' Then Mr. Blair supported the Kettle River Railway Bill, and Mr. Tarte attacked the bill in the House when it came before them, and defeated Mr. Blair. Mr. Blair negotiated with English and Canadian capitalists for the construction of a telegraph line to Dawson. Mr. Tarte on his return from Europe repudiated Mr. Blair's arrangement and built the line himself, and made the other parties lose their money. Mr. Blair supported in committee the Crow's Nest Pass Railway charter to the United States border. Mr. Tarte opposed it. Mr. Blair declared that it was the policy of the government to grant the charter. Mr. Tarte denied this, and declared that it was not so. Mr. Blair retorted, declaring that Mr. Tarte was not at the council and did not know, but Mr. Tarte won, notwithstanding, and defeated the measure when it came to the House. Mr. Dobell declared that the ss. *Scotsman* was lost on account of there not being lights and fog-horns on the St. Lawrence. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries denied it, and a wordy row ensued between these two members of the Cabinet. Sir Louis Davies denounced what he styled an omnibus bill granting certain powers to an electric company on the St. Lawrence; the Solicitor General, Mr. Fitzpatrick, supported the bill. Mr. Davies retorted and accused Mr. Fitzpatrick of being the attorney of the promoters, which Mr. Fitzpatrick indignantly denied, and read him a lecture upon the proprieties of debate. Messrs. Blair and Dobell opposed in committee the South Shore Railway Bill introduced by Mr. Préfontaine, as being an attempt to legislate others out of their rights; Sir Wilfrid Laurier, when the bill came to the House, supported it. The bill was reported, and Messrs. Dobell and Blair were thereby defeated. At the Manufacturers Banquet, in Montreal, Mr. Fielding talked free trade, and Mr. Tarte, protection, declaring that he was educated a protectionist and was one still, and that 'they fought

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