

Trade and Commerce actually flouted the idea, scouted the idea, drew himself up and put on the the most indignant countenance, and it is a countenance which from long practice can look fierce, and indignant to an extreme degree, and he said, in effect: do you suppose the historian would bother himself with the events of the last thirty years? What I fancy the right hon. Prime Minister, and he will correct me if I am wrong, intended was that 1867 was the beginning of an epoch - and as that year was the beginning of an epoch so 1897 was the beginning of an epoch too. That is a rational statement on the face of it, and it is not open to the laughter that would greet a proposition that the historian would not note what had taken place for thirty years. What was the note of 1867 and the note of those thirty years? National expansion. Who were the men who gave the keynote at that time? They were Macdonald, Tupper, Cartier, George Brown and D'Arcy McGee. Those powerful minds, some of whom remained with us until lately, and one leading name still adorns this House. (Cheers.) I repeat, what was the note of those thirty years? It was national expansion, the national expansion of Canada. And in the hands of the Conservative party, what was done? Province after province was added to the confederation; the Canadian Pacific railway was built, the canals were enlarged and deepened, the Northwest was acquired, and at last, Canada was rounded into the proportion of a nation, so that when the Prime Minister went over to represent us in England at the Jubilee, he represented not a mere colony like New South Wales or Victoria, but he represented seven colonies, and a vast territory of continental proportions, a galaxy of colonies, he represented a country that was bound to take pre-eminence and to take national bulk in the eyes of the Empire and the world. And what did it? It was the note of national expansion and the men whose inspiration that note was; some of

these men are sleeping in their peaceful graves, but their names live for ever, and one of them though sleeping in his long home in the Kingston graveyard, lives by his name and his thoughts, so that today we can say of him as the poet of Albrecht Durer, and which has been translated by Longfellow, who may be thus parodied:

"Dead he is not, but departed;

"Because the truly great man never
"dies."

A Change of Government.

Well, Sir, in 1873 a change took place. The Government was not beaten, but Sir John Macdonald resigned, and why? It was because he and his Government had made a contract with Sir Hugh Allan and the charge against Sir John was, that he sold the contract. It was supposed to have been an extravagant bargain, but at this day Liberals and Conservatives, and all thoughtful men know that so far from being an extravagant bargain, there is not an engineer of authority you can speak to who will not say: Neither Sir Hugh Allan or any company could have built the road on the terms that were made with him; and as for selling the charter, that charge has been long since exploded. What happened then? Well, as may be seen in this country to-day, as was seen in 1896, and as has been seen all through our history, the Conservative party is much more sensitive in regard to the character of its public men than the Liberal party.

Some hon. members on the Ministerial benches:—"Oh."

Mr. Davin. Yes, it is true, and there is a reason for it. That reason I need not refer to in a detailed analysis, but if you go into the past history of both parties you know very well that not merely did the genius of rule and the instinct of Government belong to the Conservative party, out from one reason or another they had within them more of the light of culture than had the Liberal party.

Liberal cries of: "Oh."

Mr. Davin. That is no reproach to