

it is interfering with the powers belonging to the provincial Legislatures.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. I am unable to see any distinction between the question involved in this Bill and that which has been previously rescinded, for the reason that in dealing with any subject over which we have power we could take a provincial court and confer jurisdiction on it. It matters not whether the result of that was simply to add that jurisdiction to the provincial court, or really to turn the provincial court into a Dominion court. It is proposed, however, that the Act shall be suspended until the Legislatures of the Provinces shall have an opportunity of conferring the jurisdiction in question.

Mr. WELDON (St. John). The proposed court will be constituted by the Dominion Government, and, in my opinion, this question is more in the nature of procedure, and the power has been already exercised. No doubt election courts stand on different footing, but under the Winding-up Act and the Insolvent Act power was given to a single judge to exercise similar powers to those proposed.

On schedule A,

Mr. DAWSON. There are two new temporary judicial districts, the districts of Manitoulin and Rainy River, which I would suggest should be included in the first section of this Bill.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. I think they are only magisterial divisions as yet.

Mr. DAWSON. There are no judges yet appointed, only stipendiary magistrates; but judges may be appointed at any time.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. But before judges may be appointed, there must be legislation by the Ontario Legislature erecting them into judicial districts. I understand that a Bill is to be passed at the present Session of the Ontario Legislature for that purpose, and after that it will be competent to amend this Act to include them. But I think it would be unwise to include them until a county judge is appointed.

Committee rose and reported.

SUPPLY—THE BUDGET.

House resumed adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Foster: That Mr. Speaker do leave the Chair for the House to go into Committee of Supply; and the motion of Sir Richard Cartwright in amendment thereto.

Mr. TUPPER. Mr. Speaker, in my opinion few Ministers occupying the very important position of Finance Minister of the Administration of the day have had the great satisfaction which was enjoyed by the present occupant of that position a few evenings ago, when, by an extraordinary array of statistics, by his careful and exhaustive review of the twenty-one years of our national existence, he was able to force from the financial critic of the Treasury benches a confession of that hon. gentleman's utter inability to meet him, or to challenge any of the very strong positions which he took up at the outset of the debate. That hon. gentleman did, for a moment, go through the form of meeting some of the hon. Minister's propositions, with the statement that he was happy to agree with him in reference to those propositions. But he invariably misconstrued the proposition so as to suit his own case, and after preliminary observations of that kind, dived into his desk and took out the arguments that he has handled Session after Session, year after year. Over and over again he would wheel round, in his favorite, warlike position, place his back to the enemy, and en-

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell).

deavor to rally his forces. Like the celebrated general in the oft-told story, he himself was unable to do anything, but he pointed out to his followers the enemy on the field of battle, and said he knew there were men on those back benches who would face the position taken up by the Finance Minister, and after repeating his old speech and his old indictment, he started for home. I say that was a gratifying position for the Minister of Finance. And what was really the whole sum and substance of the criticism of the hon. member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright)? He went over his old brief, he gave us the old arguments, cooked accounts and all, that had been made and refuted over and over again, and then, fearing that he had omitted any of those wonderful calculations and theories, so familiar to us all, he said: For the rest, I refer hon. gentlemen to *Hansard*. Well, I could, with satisfaction, perhaps, to the House, simply refer hon. members to the replies to be found in *Hansard*, which were made to the hon. gentleman's speeches; but I have a more satisfactory refutation than that as to every charge almost which he made in this debate against the honor of the Government and against the position and the policy stated by the Minister of Finance. I need not refer him to *Hansard*, but after *Hansard* had been well studied, after everyone of his indictments and elaborate financial criticisms had been spread broadcast throughout the country, I can refer him to the elections of 1882 and 1887. The answer to his specious and ingenious criticisms can be found there. But I would call the attention of the House to the extraordinary charge made by a gentleman occupying the important position the hon. gentleman does—the oft-reiterated charge that the Government (if he meant the words in the sense in which he used them) have cooked accounts. That is no new charge. Did the hon. gentleman really believe that he was bringing it for the first time to the attention of the House and the country? There is nothing in the statement he made, or in the facts to which he alluded, that will bear out, in the slightest degree, that very serious charge made against the Minister of the day, and his predecessors. The hon. gentleman made that charge on the floor of the House last year, and there, one gentleman, Mr. McLellan, to whom he alluded in this debate, and to whom he gave a certificate of character on that score, explained to this House the principle upon which those accounts were made out, and the reasons for in some years charging to capital account what in others was charged to revenue. I will not weary the House by going over the explanation which that hon. gentleman made, but will adopt the hon. gentleman's style of argument, and refer to *Hansard* (*vide Hansard*, vol. 2, 1888, page 1096). There will be found the answer to the hon. gentleman's charge, and in that same volume will be found the answer to every criticism the hon. gentleman has made. But with reference to the criticisms in which he endeavored to assail the Finance Department, I have reason to believe the Minister of Finance will take an early opportunity before this subject is disposed of, to give the hon. gentleman what further information there is to be given on that score. When we reflect that that hon. gentleman dared to use, in this House, such language in reference to his opponents, as to describe them as knaves, and the majority of the people as dupes, because the people have expressed their confidence in the Administration of the day, it is high time to remind him, not only of the position he occupies in the counsels of this country, but of the fact that his past record is not of a character to entitle him to hurl those charges across the floor of the House. I wish to tell him that his extraordinary career, his extraordinary characteristics, financially and otherwise, are all known to the people of this country, who have had a very unhappy experience of his official life. The principles to which he has adhered are not only extraordinary, but, to a large extent, amusing. He has been engaged in making calculations