

pass a law of that kind will be known in the future. This is a point to which I shall call the attention of the House at a very early date and will ask for the papers submitted to these eminent lawyers in England when the question was asked as to the power of the Senate to deal with a question of this kind. We have the reports from the London papers stating what did take place. When I asked the question last year, my hon. friend opposite was unable to tell me because he said he did not know. It did not pass through his department. Whether he has allowed himself to be again treated in that cavalier way by a non-member of the government, the Solicitor General, since that period I am not in a position to state. That rests with himself, but I do say this, that if a case was submitted to any lawyer, eminent or not, particularly in Great Britain, it should have emanated from the office of the Minister of Justice in this country, and I am quite satisfied that the Minister of Justice would to save his own reputation, have put the question fairly and properly before these gentlemen when asking their opinion. If the opinion was asked as is indicated by the telegrams which have been sent from England to this country, then the question submitted to the eminent legal authorities to whom I have referred—I say it advisedly—is not in accordance with the facts, and consequently the opinion given under such circumstances is of no value and should have no force in this country. However, that is a point I shall refer to in the future, when I ask for the papers, and I have no doubt my hon. friend will be then in a position to tell us what was done in the matter and to give us a copy of the question asked of Mr. Blake and Mr. Russell and other gentlemen whose opinions were read in this House during the last session. I repeat, before I sit down, my congratulations to the government for having changed their opinions on the matter of the contingents, on the question of setting a precedent. Just as much and as freely and as honestly do I congratulate them on having changed their opinion, or if they have not changed their opinion, on having acted in direct contravention to the promises they made the electors in 1896, by continuing the policy of the late government almost in its entirety, under which this country has

prospered and is prospering. Unless they do what they have promised to do, cut down the protective policy that prosperity will continue. Let them go on in the footsteps of their predecessors and the country will prosper, but I am not prepared to admit as Mr. Paterson, the Minister of Customs, claimed in Winnipeg a short time ago, that if they are carrying out the policy of the late government so far as protection is concerned why not leave them to do it. Men who profess one thing, and do the opposite in order to retain office, are not fit to govern. Those who inaugurated the policy should take charge of it and administer the affairs of the country in the manner in which it was administered for 18 years, and prosperity will continue.

Hon. Mr. MILLS moved the adjournment of the debate.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I should like to make an explanation to my hon. friend opposite with reference to the papers which were not laid on the table. My hon. friend has a considerable advantage over us. We did not have them. I only saw them on Saturday, and they were at once sent to the printing bureau, and the printer promised faithfully to have them in time for the sitting to-day. When the hon. gentleman made reference to it I went out and telephoned to ascertain why they had not been on the table. It appears they were sent to the Privy Council for the proofs to be corrected and were detained there, to my great annoyance. Otherwise hon. members would have had the papers on the table of the House this afternoon. They were ordered to be printed the moment they got them.

Hon. Mr. McCALLUM—Will they be on the table to-morrow?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Yes. They were promised faithfully to be here at five o'clock to-day.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Does my hon. friend refer to the document I have been quoting from?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Yes.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—This has been in the Library for a long time. I sent to the Library and inquired for it.