

SIR CHARLES TUPPER : I cannot permit the hon. gentleman to put a statement in my mouth that has no foundation in fact. I made no such statement as that which the hon. gentleman is now attributing to me.

SIR ALBERT J. SMITH : Did not the hon. gentleman say that the hon. the Finance Minister acted wisely in consulting Sir Alexander Galt?

SIR CHARLES TUPPER : In answer to the taunt that the hon. the Minister of Finance had consulted Sir Alexander Galt, I said that it would have been well for the country if the late Finance Minister had done so. I did not say that the present hon. Finance Minister had done so. I give the hon. gentleman's statement a flat denial. I say that what he has just stated on this point is entirely unfounded in fact. There is a record of what takes place here. I will refer to the Reporters' notes and I say he will search in vain to find a single note to substantiate his statement.

SIR ALBERT J. SMITH : Does the hon. gentleman say that the hon. the Minister of Finance did not consult Sir Alexander T. Galt? It is not of much consequence what he said. It does not reflect upon the hon. the Finance Minister; it is no reflection upon him at all; the hon. the Minister of Railways says "the late Finance Minister is a king of deficits, and no man is fit to be Finance Minister who does not avoid deficits." I think he reflects on the hon. the First Minister when he says this.

SIR CHARLES TUPPER : I did not say so.

SIR ALBERT J. SMITH : You did say so.

SIR CHARLES TUPPER : I did not.

SIR ALBERT J. SMITH : You said he was king of deficits, and that—

SIR CHARLES TUPPER : I did not make the assertion that no man was fit to be a Finance Minister who accumulated deficits. What I did was merely to quote the statement, to that effect, made by the late Finance Minister himself.

SIR ALBERT J. SMITH : Did not every member of this House understand the hon. gentleman to say "that any Finance Minister who could not balance

the receipts and expenditures was unfit for his position."

SIR CHARLES TUPPER : I quoted the late Finance Minister's assertion to that effect.

SIR ALBERT J. SMITH : Very well, let us go on. Now, we find that for each of the six years from 1858, there was a large deficit; and I do not think the hon. the First Minister, who was at the head of the Government at that time, should be reflected upon by his colleague. I do not think he should be rebuked by the hon. member for Cumberland for these deficits. Deficits may occur in spite of the best financing efforts. The tide of depression had set in; the volume of trade could not be increased. Two and a-half per cent. was added to the taxation of the country, and that gave a higher revenue. Sir Alexander Galt, who was the Finance Minister at that time, declared himself entirely opposed to a fiscal policy such as we have now. Last year we had a deficit; the hon. the Finance Minister was not at fault. Not at all. This year he acknowledges a deficit of \$500,000; but I believe the result will show a deficit of upwards of \$2,000,000. Surely, then, the hon. the Minister of Railways will not allow the present Finance Minister to remain where he is. He had everything in his favour; he put on the duties just as he wanted, and, therefore, there is no excuse for his having a deficit. But he will have a deficit, increasing year after year; because, if he puts duties on manufactures he cannot have them imported, and, therefore, he must lose the revenue. Now, the people are weighed down with \$7,000,000 of additional taxes. I think, however, the hon. the Finance Minister will never receive such money as he expects; the people will have to pay it, but it will not come into the Treasury. We are informed that prosperity reigns everywhere; he informed us that St. John was prosperous. Why, there never was such depression there as exists now. What did the hon. gentleman say last December? It cannot be much changed now. He was received with great *éclat*, surrounded by a great many friends; he went to Fredericton, and had a good time there; he made a great many visits; but he did not visit Mr. Gibson who employs about 3,000 hands, and is one of the largest