

that regard. As I said before, the right hon. gentleman who represented Canada on that occasion naturally took the place that has long since been assigned to Canada as the first colony in the Empire.

The **MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE**. More than a colony.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. It is more than a colony, and from the time that she became more than a colony down to this hour, without any question on the part of any other portion of the British Empire, the first rank and position have been accorded to whoever represented her on every occasion. I say that was the position Sir Alexander Galt occupied, that was the position that I had the honour to occupy, and that is the position occupied by Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal to-day, whether at the Mansion House, or at any of the great Guilds or on any royal function—whatever it be, he takes his place as the representative of Canada at the head of all others. Although this is not a matter of great import, I still feel bound to put my hon. friend right on that point.

The First Minister addressed a banquet at Montreal on December 17th, and I find some reason to criticise what he said on that occasion. He spoke as follows:—

If I may be privileged on this occasion to say one word of my own personal self, I would say that for many and many years it has been my hope that I would not close my eyes, that I would not sink into the grave, before I had seen Canada lifted up to the state of a nation. (Cheers.) Well, I may now die, for this day I have seen.

No person would regret more than I that any such fate should befall the right hon. gentleman, for we shall always have the most sanguine hope that the Liberal-Conservative party will come into power when an appeal is made to the people, provided the right hon. gentleman continues to lead the Government. He further said:

I was in Paris, in the land of my own ancestors, when the telegraph wires flashed the news that England had denounced the treaties which she had for twenty years and more with Germany and Belgium. What was Canada before that day? On the continent of Europe what was it—in France, in Germany, and everywhere else? Simply a name—simply a blotch on the map, and nothing more.

Did any person ever read such transcendent nonsense—that Canada, until the denunciation of the German and Belgium treaties, was a blotch on the map and nothing more. I do not know what stage of the dinner had been reached when the hon. gentleman delivered his speech, but it must have been late. Again, he said:

But when the day came that, at the instance of Canada, England, a great nation, denounced her treaties with—

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL** (Mr. Mullock). Hear, hear.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. My hon. friend says "hear, hear." I will prove to him that the statement is not true, and that it was not done at the instance of Canada. He has gone off at half-cock. Again:

—Germany and Belgium, and signified to the German Zollverein and to Belgium that twelve months hence those treaties would cease, on that day I felt a proud citizen, because on that day my dreams were realized, and Canada became a factor among the nations of the earth.

The hon. gentleman must be a veritable Rip Van Winkle; he must have been asleep during the last twenty years if these are the opinions he holds as to the position Canada occupies. The right hon. gentleman stated on another occasion that the reason why Canada was a nation was because she was free. Would freedom make a nation? Are the Manxmen a nation? They are tolerably free. Does the hon. gentleman really mean to say that freedom makes a nation? It is not freedom. Freedom is very well for a nation, but it is only a constituent part. What more? Did confederation do nothing to make a nation of Canada? Why were the hon. gentleman's lips sealed in face of the fact acknowledged by the civilized world that the confederation of the British North American provinces was one of the most important events that ever transpired? Why had he no word to say in favour of confederation? Was it because it owed nothing to him? Was it because the party to which he belonged, the Rouge party of Lower Canada, fought confederation to the death, and had they been able to maintain their views and sentiments, there would have been no Canadian confederation to-day and no nation for the hon. gentleman to talk about? It was to that great, powerful, brave, determined and patriotic French Canadian, Sir George Etienne Cartier, probably above all others, that we owe confederation. Had Sir George Cartier not had the courage and patriotism not only to take up that measure but to fight it through in spite of all the opposition that the party to which the right hon. gentleman belongs could give him, confederation would not have become an established fact. Instead of recognizing the services of the man who had done more to make Canada a nation than perhaps any other man in British North America, they never ceased to persecute him until they hounded him into an untimely grave. That was the recognition given to the man to whom the national position of Canada to-day is due. Had the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway nothing to do in making a nation of Canada? When I went to Washington at the invitation of that eminent and eloquent American, Mr. Bayard, a gentleman who recently occupied the position of ambassador from the United States to England, I was the Secretary of State, he met me and taking me by the hand, said: "Sir Charles Tupper, the