

contingent to Pekin on a recent occasion. (Laughter and cheers.) There is, sir, one condition, and one condition alone, on which I would be willing to admit that Sir Charles Tupper had a good deal to do with sending a contingent to South Africa. If Sir Charles is willing to declare—and on this occasion I would be willing to take Sir Charles' unsupported word, although it is not a thing that I am in the habit commonly of doing,—(laughter)—if Sir Charles is willing to declare that it was he who inspired Mr. Kruger's ultimatum to the British Government—that it was he who was really the promoter of the invasion of British Territory by the Transvaal State, then, sir, I am willing to admit that Sir Charles had a good deal to do with the sending of the contingent to South Africa. (Laughter and cheers.)

But, as I have not observed, however close the relations may happen to be between Sir Charles Tupper and Mr. Paul Kruger—(laughter)—that he has as yet preferred any such claim, I beg leave to tell him that he had absolutely nothing to do with the conduct of the government in sending that contingent forward. (Hear, hear.)

### Governmental Responsibility.

One thing the government did not do. The government did not allow themselves to be stampeded. The government did not allow themselves to take a step of the greatest gravity without due deliberation and consideration—(hear, hear)—and so far from holding it a matter of censure on the part of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his colleagues that they thought gravely and long before they decided on a step which they knew would involve the expenditure of millions of the people's money, and what in our opinion, was far more important, would put at hazard the lives of thousands of our fellow-countrymen in the battlefield—I say that they would have been entirely false to their duty if they had taken a step of that importance and magnitude without fully weighing and considering and counting the cost. (Cheers.) And I can say to Sir Charles Tupper and his followers, wherever they may be, that the government of Canada, acting in that fashion, deliberately and calmly showed a far greater sense of their responsibility and of the duty which they owed to the people than Sir Charles Tupper appeared to have felt when, without rhyme or reason, he took it upon himself, first of all, to denounce the government from one end of the country to the other for their delay, as he alleged, in sending forward a contingent, and, in the next place, and far worse, to make use of that alleged delay to attempt to stir up a racial war between the two great sections into which Canada is divided today. (Cheers.)