

hon. gentleman, having accomplished, in Committee, all that was necessary to obtain its entire support to and approval of this Bill, presented himself before the House as the father of the Bill, and asked the House to accept it, he and other members of the Committee having bestowed upon it the most careful and exhaustive consideration. He felt, when the hon. member for Northumberland had ventured to insinuate that night the motives which actuated hon. gentlemen in placing themselves in the extraordinary position—he would not say of stultifying the House, because that was unparliamentary—but of unanimously passing a Bill and sending it to the Senate, and then, by their vote, declaring that the amendment of the Senate should not be agreed to, for the purpose of preventing the Bill becoming law at all, that—and he believed he would be sustained in the assertion by hon. gentlemen on both sides of the House—in the history of legislation, they would search in vain to find a parallel to a proceeding such as this.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD: It is disgraceful.

Mr. TUPPER said he would say nothing like disgraceful. He did not want to use strong terms. The Act itself spoke in terms so loud to the country, as to the action of the House in regard to this Bill, as to admit of his dealing with it in a very subdued manner indeed. When the hon. member for Northumberland had ventured to insinuate that the motives behind this extraordinary change of position and right-about face—the fact of gentlemen being prepared to vote down that night what, after careful and deliberate consideration, the Railway Committee had accepted as a wise and judicious law—he was called to order, and justly so, because it was not parliamentary to impute such motives; but, while they were bound to consider that the action of hon. gentlemen in the House had not been influenced by improper motives, and while they were prevented from impugning motives to any hon. member, it would be impossible, outside of the House, to prevent the conviction being widespread throughout

Mr. TUPPER.

the country as to the cause of the defeat of the measure of his hon. friend from King's; this was the policy adopted in the House; to what would it bring the Legislature? He could tell hon. gentlemen opposite that, if those who sat on the Opposition benches had treated them as they were now treating these hon. gentlemen in relation to their legislation, Parliament could not have risen for another month. Had not the Opposition assisted these hon. gentlemen in passing over, as rapidly as possible, the most grave and important questions, and aided them in bringing the business of the House to a conclusion, it would have been impossible for them to prorogue the House for another month. If the principles of disintegration had gone on, and if the difficulties that could have been raised legitimately and constitutionally had been pressed, hon. gentlemen opposite would have found themselves in another month in an attitude still worse than that in which they were that night. Never was there an Opposition less deserving of such treatment as his hon. friend had received, and he would tell hon. gentlemen opposite that this treatment was accepted by him, as it would be by every member of the Opposition, as treatment not extended to an individual but to the whole Opposition as an Opposition. He said that the course taken and the example set was a baneful example, dragging down into the lowest mire of partyism all questions of public import which had a right to be considered on their merits alone and aside from all party considerations; and this was an example which, if it was followed, was going to be attended with the most baneful results in the House; and no persons in the House were going to feel these baneful results more than the hon. gentlemen on the Treasury benches, who had lent themselves, he would say, unworthily to crush a measure in which his hon. friend was interested, simply because it was a measure in which this hon. gentleman did take an interest.

Mr. DOMVILLE said he wished to make an explanation to the House to put himself right in this matter. When he found that there was opposition to