

which we have adopted. But seeing that this great work ought to be and should be constructed by utilizing those lands to which the road itself is going to give such enormously increased value, we came down with that policy, and we supposed that these hon. gentlemen opposite, having committed the Government, having pledged the faith of Canada, as they pledged it in relation to this question, that they would have been the first men in this House to congratulate us upon the policy we had propounded, and give us their most hearty support, but we discovered that we were altogether mistaken. What was the language of the hon. leader of the Opposition last winter, when we propounded that policy. He said the land was good for nothing.

MR. MACKENZIE: I did not say so.

SIR CHARLES TUPPER: The whole success of our scheme depended upon our being able to convince the world that these lands were fertile and of enormous value; that they would largely repay any person who undertook their settlement, that it was the most inviting field for emigrants that was to be found in the world. But how did the hon. gentleman meet us? He met us first with the declaration that it is a bad policy to lock up the land.

MR. MACKENZIE: Hear, hear.

SIR CHARLES TUPPER: Hear, hear, he says? Yet I ask him what he said to the people of Sarnia when he told them that without the Canadian Pacific Railway these lands were valueless. I ask him how he reconciles that statement with the statement that it is a bad policy to utilise these lands for the purpose of constructing the Railway through them? What more did the hon. gentleman say when he knew that the whole success of our policy rested upon our success in convincing the world of the great value of these lands, and the safety of investing money in their purchase, in order to give us the means of constructing this Railway without imposing an enormous burden upon the people of the country. The hon. gentleman took upon himself the responsibility of endeavouring to defeat the success of this policy. The hon. gentleman told the people of England, from the floor of this House, that we could not give our lands away in Canada.

MR. MACKENZIE: I did not.

SIR CHARLES TUPPER: I ask the hon. gentleman to read his speech. Turn up the *Hansard*, and the hon. gentleman will see that when we talked of building the Canadian Pacific Railway with these lands, and selling them to get the money, he said we could not get people to settle on the lands in Canada when we gave them away.

AN HON. MEMBER: Texas.

SIR CHARLES TUPPER: I am not going to say anything about Texas, as the hon. gentleman has been pressed sufficiently on that point; for he was on the horns of a dilemma and ready to fly to Texas or anywhere else to escape from the difficulty. The hon. gentleman followed us to England. After the House had adopted the policy that gave us the authority to dispose of 100,000,000 acres of land for the purpose of constructing this great work, and had authorised the mission to England for the purpose of endeavouring to enlist capitalists abroad, and the Government of England to aid in the prosecution of this work, the hon. gentleman not only denounced the policy of using the lands, he not only declared that they were worthless—

MR. MACKENZIE: I said nothing of the kind.

SIR CHARLES TUPPER: He said we could not settle them when we gave them away.

MR. MACKENZIE: I said nothing of the kind.

SIR CHARLES TUPPER: If the hon. gentleman will read his speech in the *Hansard*, he will find it there; if not, I will acknowledge I misapprehended what he said. The hon. gentleman followed us to England, he followed that mission which this Government sent to England for the purpose of obtaining aid in the construction of this work. Immediately upon our arrival in England, a long article appeared in one of the leading journals, declaring that there was a reaction in this country, that the Government had lost their popularity; and so the hon. gentleman followed us, step by step, and used every argument that could be used in order to defeat and render abortive the mission in which we were engaged. The passage I was referring to in the hon. gentleman's speech of last year has been kindly turned up for me.