

them which entirely paralyzed the industries in which they were engaged. To stem the tide of discontent and trouble Mr. BRYDGES comes forward and says, "I will undo all I have done; I will make special rates." But that, Mr. SPEAKER, is entrusting enormous power to a man who is undeserving of it, because he will abuse it. It is giving the power to Mr. BRYDGES to favor here and there certain industries which he chose to favor, and it would lay the Government open to the suspicion that they were not dealing with even-handed justice by the people of the various sections. While you find Mr. BRYDGES increasing the tariff in the Maritime Provinces, paralysing trade along the line of railways so that the whole Provinces are arrayed against the administration, you see him reducing the tariff on the Great Western Railway from twenty to fifty per cent. below the existing rates. The adoption of Mr. BRYDGES' policy in the Maritime Provinces, I have shown therefore to have been in direct opposition to the wishes of the people, and most disastrous to the country so far as regards the collection of revenue. I regret, sir, that the hon. Minister of Finance should have widened this discussion in the way he did, and which compelled me to make these remarks; but I do not think the time I have occupied has been lost. It was impossible to avoid this discussion; if it had not come now, it would have come in relation to the Intercolonial Railway in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. I, therefore, thought I was consulting the convenience of the House and economizing the public time by dealing with the subjects which the hon. Minister of Finance introduced into his reply to my criticism of his financial statement.

Hon. Mr. CARTWRIGHT said:—Mr. SPEAKER—As to the major part of the speech of the hon. member for Cumberland, that I can leave to the care of my friend, the Minister of Public Works, and also to Mr. BRYDGES, both of which gentlemen, I have not the slightest doubt; will take admirable care of themselves. Now, sir, generally speaking, when my hon. friend deals in assertions, particularly as to matters of facts and figures, it is my painful duty to dispute and utterly deny every statement whatever that the hon. gentleman may make. On the present

occasion, I am heartily glad to say there is at least one statement made by him which I most cordially endorse, as I have no doubt does my hon. friend who sits beside me. When the hon. member for Cumberland stated to the House that he believed the taxation of this country had been increased twenty per cent. or thereabouts, without the people of Canada being inconvenienced by the burden, I believe he stated the truth, and no greater compliment could be paid to any tariff or to any Finance Minister. I would not have dared to pay such a compliment to the tariff myself, but I accept it from the hon. member for Cumberland in the spirit in which it is given.

Hon. Mr. TUPPER—It is true.

Hon. Mr. CARTWRIGHT—I am glad to hear it, and I hope hon. gentlemen will make a note of it. I would like to call the attention of the House to a remarkable omission made by my hon. friend. The House heard him read from the speech of Mr. TILLEY two paragraphs, but the House did not hear him—because they had not that speech about them as I had—read one still more remarkable paragraph inserted between the two he read. He read "The Government will not, during the present session, propose to touch the tariff in any particular." That was correctly read, but Mr. TILLEY went on to say "Under the peculiar circumstances in which we are placed, and with the certainty almost, looking at the increased expenditure of the next year, that some re-adjustment must take place next session, the Government have concluded to make no present change." That sentence was omitted, and from that omission coming between the two paragraphs quoted the House will learn with what remarkable fairness my hon. friend is wont to state his case. I must protest once for all against his assertion that whenever I do not explicitly deny a statement made by him, I admit its truth. I desire to say that when I do not expressly admit the truth of any statement of his in matters of arithmetic, I am to be understood as utterly denying it. This is the principle on which I deal with his arithmetic. Greatly as I admire the unquestionable valor with which the hon. gentleman charges the question, I am bound to say his valor exceeds his discretion. I will now refer to the customs refunds,

*Hon. Mr. Tupper.*