

rather moderate on that occasion. Mr. Mitchell was very lavish in his abuse, and was only excelled by the hon. the Minister of Public Works, who had the kindness to speak of him (Sir A. J. Smith) in terms of considerable severity. The Minister of Public Works, he was told, stated to the people on that occasion, as he had on previous occasions, that he (Sir A. J. Smith) was an office-seeker, that he had knocked at the doors of his (Mr. Tupper's) Government, for office, and was refused. He had been rather surprised that the hon. the Finance Minister should stand by, and by his silence acquiesce in the statement. The Minister of Finance knew him; they had personal and political relations for many years, and he (Sir A. J. Smith) thought he could appeal to that hon. gentleman, though an opponent, as testimony in refutation of the charge thus made by the Minister of Public Works. He would ask him if he ever had been an office seeker? He had been in the same Government with him (Mr. Tilley) for seven years, and had no office. During the fifteen years that he had sat as a representative in the New Brunswick Legislature, he had held office for only some two years, that was as Attorney-General, and he thought he was treated undeservedly by the hon. the Minister of Finance, when he allowed his colleague to charge him before his (Sir A. J. Smith's) constituents with being an office-seeker, and having knocked at the door of their Government for office. He (Mr. Tilley) knew it was not true, and the Minister of Public Works had no warrant for making any such statement. He recollected that, in 1872, when the present Prime Minister occupied the same position as he did now, they had offered him (Sir A. J. Smith) the Lieutenant-Governorship of New Brunswick. He had thanked the Government at the time, but had declined the offer. The hon. the Minister of Public Works, would recollect, too, the proposition made to him (Sir A. J. Smith) at St. John in 1873. It was not a confidential matter, as he (Mr. Tupper) had mentioned it to several persons. He (Mr. Tupper) had proposed that he (Sir A. J. Smith) should take the Governorship of Nova Scotia, and that he (Mr. Tupper) should take the Governorship of New

Brunswick. He had told him (Mr. Tupper) on that occasion, that he did not care for any position, and that he was content to remain an independent member for the county of Westmoreland. The hon. gentleman knew too, that, in 1873, a member of his Government was commissioned by the First Minister to offer him a seat in the Cabinet. That was not a secret. The hon. gentleman knew that, when he (Sir A. J. Smith) came to Ottawa in 1873, in October, that he was not here an hour, when he was waited upon by the Minister of Public Works and pressed to accept a portfolio in the then Government. Here were two offers of Governorships, and two seats in the Cabinet, the whole of which he had declined, and he would ask the hon. the Minister of Public Works whether, in view of these facts, he had any authority or warrant for saying that he (Sir A. J. Smith) was an office-seeker, and that he had knocked at the door of their Government for office? He did not think it was fair or just to make such an accusation against a public man who was not the slightest foundation for such charge. He never was an office-seeker. Did not the hon. the Minister of Finance know that when he (Sir A. J. Smith) first came here, in 1867, they had been associated together for many years? The Confederation discussion had made a divergence between them, but it had not terminated the kindly feeling that had existed between them. He (Mr. Tilley) knew very well that he was not an office-seeker, but that he had been offered office day after day, and had refused it. It was most unfair for the hon. member (Mr. Tupper) to make that charge against him, and he felt it his duty, before the House and the country, to refute those charges, and to show that they had no foundation in fact whatever. The hon. member for King's (Mr. Domville) had read an extract from a speech, reported to have been made by him (Sir A. J. Smith) in 1872. That speech was incorrectly reported. In 1867, having fought the battle of Confederation, and having been beaten, he had laid down his arms, and admitted he was conquered, and he believed it was his duty, as a public man, to exert all influence towards making Confederation a success, and the country