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1878, than there were by the Conservative Government from 1867 till now. The reasons why we disallowed this measure were three. In the first place, it interfered with the rights of property; in the second place, it was retroactive in its effect; and in the third place, it was interfering with a case before the Courts, and no Act should be passed till the Courts decide the question. What do you think we did? In the Order-in-Council disallowing the Bill we copied word for word the Order-in-Council passed by Mr. Mackenzie's Government in disallowing a Bill passed by the Legislature of Prince Edward Island exactly to the same effect. (Cheers.) The Government in disallowing a Provincial Bill have to consider well whether they are interfering with Provincial rights. But there are some great primary principles which lie at the basis of all Constitutional government, and one was the preservation of the rights of property.

The Duty of the Central Government.

It was the boast of civilization that the rights of property are maintained. There was an attack—a causeless, senseless attack upon the rights of the property of a single, humble individual, ruining him and his property—an attack upon the legal tribunals of the country, introducing an element of uncertainty which would prevent people from Germany and England coming here, because it would prove to them that no man's rights in property were safe, and that the Legislature could sweep them at any moment. The bill struck at the very root of the prosperity and reputation of the Dominion. And I, sir, as Prime Minister, as chiefly responsible for the good government of this country, under the representative of our Sovereign, would be justly chargeable with a failure to perform my duty if I did not respect the rights of property. (Hear, hear.) What did I care if my action was followed by a storm of obloquy and unpopularity? It is my duty in my position to disregard fears of unpopularity, to do that which, though it may prejudice me in the eyes of some, I believe in my conscience to be for the good of the country, and to protect the rights of property in the community, even at the risk of losing the position I hold. (Cheers.) So I take the responsibility of that act, and I say I will do it again. (Loud applause.) I say that no matter how humble and helpless a man may be, if he has rights, and if any Government or any Legislature in the wantonness of power, or for a political or other purpose, destroys those rights, I will come forward, and