

The hon. member for South Oxford was unable to do more than to use the old argument, rather weak, it seems to me, of merely saying that, whereas the debt was \$75,000,000 in 1867, it was \$236,000,000 in 1889. But I wish to call attention to the able argument of the hon. gentleman in justification of the expenditure of every dollar. I wish to recall to the hon. gentleman's memory his justification, at a time when he, as Finance Minister, stated to this House, that the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway would involve an expenditure of \$100,000,000, and it was difficult to say how much more a year to run and operate that road. I called the attention of the House to a statement made by the hon. gentleman as to the advisability of this debt. I am not alluding to the familiar statement made by that hon. gentleman in England to the money lenders, when he told them that all the debt which had been incurred by his predecessors, and which he had denounced in this House as extravagant, had been incurred for general purposes of public utility, but I want to remind the hon. gentleman that at one time when he was of opinion we would have to spend a hundred million dollars in building the Canadian Pacific Railway, and that it would cost us something like \$8,000,000 a year to run it, according to the calculations of some engineers. In 1875, he came down to the House and, as Finance Minister, told us why we should incur this expenditure. He said:

"We have completed the Intercolonial Railway and the Prince Edward Island Railway, and are, therefore, free to turn our undivided energies and attention to the task of enlarging and improving our canals and constructing the Canadian Pacific Railway."

And these are the purposes for which our debt has been incurred. He went on to say:

"One thing we may fairly say to our people, that the sacrifices which we are called upon to make are not being undertaken for any selfish local object, but, in the largest sense, in the future interest of the whole of the Provinces of the Dominion. We have chosen to take upon ourselves a truly Imperial task—a greater task than was ever undertaken by any nation of our age and resources—that of colonising and developing a most enormous extent of country, not so much for our own benefit as that of generations yet to come."

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. In which you have infamously failed.

Mr. TUPPER:

"That such an enterprise is one which will require our utmost energies I do not for one moment deny, but although I admit this, and admit also that while engaged in its prosecution, we must be willing to forego other works of much greater immediate advantage, yet I hold it is far better we should do so than even seem to fail in meeting the obligations to which I have referred. I believe that every man who has paid any serious attention to the future of Canada, knows right well that with us this matter is a struggle for the possibility of carrying out a distinct national existence. This, at any rate, is an object for which we may well call upon our people for any reasonable sacrifice, and it will be at once the desire and the interest of the Government to take care that such sacrifices, as may be inevitable, shall yet be restrained within due bounds. Perhaps, after all, it is as well that we, like other people, should be compelled to test our strength and nerve."

I call particular attention to this:

"Better, indeed, in this respect, since we may thus undergo in peaceful fashion the ordeal to which all countries which have ever achieved any real greatness have had sooner or later to submit, though, for the most part, it has come in the shape of wasting and desolating war."

If there was any justification required for the progressive, the bold, the plucky, the Canadian policy of this Government, we have it from the man who, while believing in all that, dared not put it to the touch. We have it from the man who was virtually turned out of office, because, in reference to trade questions, as in reference to national public works, he had not the courage of his convictions. Now, I had intended to say more, but I see it is within ten minutes of six, and I wish to keep my promise, notwithstanding great temptation, of occupying the House no longer than six o'clock. But let me turn for a moment to the resolution of the hon. gentleman. The hon. gentleman has been, and his party has been—and I say this meaning it in good faith—driven back to this desperate and foolish course. I say

Mr. TUPPER.

they were ashamed, in the beginning of this Session, after the defeat of the Democratic party, to whose coat-tails they had tied themselves, to knock again at the door of the American Republic, but, having been taunted, after their attacks in piecemeal fashion on the tariff, they have been driven, for better or worse, to make anew the foul attack they made last year on the policy of this country. But no matter how they may endeavor to confuse the public mind, the people understand that the Liberal-Conservative party, as a whole, are still ready to make a fair trade arrangement with the United States, whenever the United States are prepared to enter into such an arrangement. We have said, time and time again, to the Government at Washington; we have said it in all the official correspondence, as these gentlemen themselves admit, and our plenipotentiaries have said it; and, true to that policy, we are not taking an attitude unworthy of Canadians, we are not taking a cringing attitude. I believe we will yet succeed in making a fair arrangement with the Republican Government lately installed at Washington, and we will do it as men and as Canadians, just as independent in Canada in reference to our future and our present as the Americans, to their credit, are independent in the United States. We have by our policy won the admiration of one of the leading men of the present Cabinet, and with the indulgence of the House I will quote from an important speech made by Mr. Blaine in reference to our Government and its policy. Mr. Blaine is able to speak now with great authority, and his remarks will show how the policy of our Government is regarded in the United States. Attempts have been made, time and again, to convince the Government and the people of the United States that we desire to irritate and annoy them, and to place us in such a position as to make it impossible for the party in power here to treat at Washington. But Mr. Blaine understood those petty political attempts, and thus speaks:

"I have nothing whatever to say against the Dominion of Canada as a Government or against its inhabitants. The Dominion of Canada is an energetic and able Government. There are able and clever men at the head of it. They have done a wonderful work and they have made wonderful progress, and I don't believe there is a citizen of the United States, from one end of the country to the other, that envies the people of the Dominion all the prosperity they may attain."

Then he goes on to claim that while we cannot have what this hon. gentleman desires we should now petition for. The hon. gentleman wants the people of Canada, after having gone to Washington time and again, now to throw ourselves at the feet of the men who he says are holding out the olive branch. They are holding out offers like the spider to the fly. The olive branch of Mr. Hitt means nothing else than the policy the hon. gentleman himself deprecated on the floor of the House last year. He was told then, as plainly as one man could be told by another, that while the people of the United States were ready for commercial union, and while Mr. Hitt will permit us to go into their country and be controlled and managed at their own sweet will, yet unrestricted reciprocity was impossible. The hon. gentleman is hard to convince, but, if he will read the speech of Mr. Blaine, he will see that while we may yet make a fair and proper arrangement with reference to trade and otherwise with the American Government, we do not injure our interests by respecting ourselves, and while we are anxious to extend our trade relations consistent with the interests of this country, consistent with our laboring, our farming and manufacturing interests, whether with the United States or any other country, it will be a sorry day when both parties in Canada take up the position assumed by hon. gentlemen opposite, a position they denounced time and time again, a position which has been denounced by their veteran leader, and a policy which certainly does not inspire respect in the Dominion of Canada. So I say that the people of this country are not of a cringing kind, they have shown that they are