

AN HON. MEMBER: There were the water-stretches.

SIR CHARLES TUPPER: They had abandoned them. The late Government undertook to build 113 miles from Thunder Bay to English River, and 114 miles from Red River to Keewatin, leaving 185 miles of a gap between. Dare they say they did not intend to fill it up, or that all the millions sunk in that unproductive work, that could not have carried a dozen passengers or a ton of freight in a year, were to be thrown away; and do they not then stand responsible for the \$18,000,000 to be spent on that road before it can be completed? Could the present Government have abandoned the enlargement of the Welland Canal, a work which had absorbed millions? We had no power in the matter. Every dollar's worth of the work was under contract, and we were bound to complete it or pay the money for nothing. And yet the late Finance Minister dares, with the late Minister of Public Works sitting alongside of him, to say they were not responsible. Let him go to the Cornwall Canal, where \$500,000 was expended by hon. gentlemen opposite with no possible result except the carrying of an election; that was an outlay utterly useless without the expenditure of millions besides. Yet they venture to assert they left to the present Government no liabilities for public works. What again of the 125 miles of railway placed under contract in British Columbia? I am astounded that, in the face of an intelligent people, and an independent Parliament, any man could be found, who knows that the late Premier negotiated with Lord Carnarvon and pledged the faith of Canada to the construction of the Railway from Thunder Bay to the shores of the Pacific—2,000 miles—by 1890, and who knows the hon. gentleman swept away that guarantee we had provided, that the expenditure should not exceed the resources of the people without additional taxation, who should arraign our policy in the manner witnessed. Does the hon. gentleman mean to say that, having committed themselves to the building of 2,000 miles of railway, without regard to the resources of the country, with the character of the country irretrievably gone unless that pledge was redeemed, by such

efforts as were possible to be made with that object, the location of the line to Burrard Inlet, and the invitation of tenders for that 125 miles, was done with out any intention of performing the work, but simply to hoodwink the people of that Province until after the elections. If so, hon. gentlemen opposite occupy a position that reflects very little credit on them. The hon. member for Centre Huron made another objection to our policy—that we should thereby alienate the people of England—an idea worked up thoroughly on both sides of the Atlantic. What was the result? That the hon. the Finance Minister has shown this evening, as in the case of the revenue, so in its bearing on the English people, that the fiscal policy of the Government has changed the current of trade from the groove in which it was being set by the hon. gentlemen opposite; and, instead of Canada being made subsidiary to the neighbouring Republic, and our people being made for it hewers of wood and drawers of water, instead of Canada giving nearly the whole volume of its trade to a country that refused to admit its goods, instead of Canada turning her back on the Mother Country, and giving her trade to foreign countries, the Finance Minister shows he has redeemed his pledge of a year ago, and justified his judgment that this policy would be eminently favourable to British interests and restore the trade to that channel which every loyal British subject must infinitely prefer to that favoured by the hon. gentleman opposite. What was the object of their tea and sugar duties? The whole power of the late Administration, from the hour they assumed office till the hour they were driven out, was used to build up Boston and New York as our commercial capitals, and leave us at the feet of that Republic, to whose grandeur and greatness all the trade and business of the country was made to contribute, instead of being directed towards that Mother Country to which we owe so much. Then, again, those hon. gentlemen declared: Your Tariff is not only going to arouse England against us, but to exasperate the United States—be careful, they added, the Republic does not swallow us up. The bugbear of American hostility was attempted to be excited, and in their newspapers everything possible was done to exasperate the United