

tunate in his exit from it. This House would be astonished to hear that the hon. the Finance Minister, while he was yet Governor, attended a public political meeting in St. John, and accepted the nomination for the city. He made, also, a violent speech on that occasion, in which he condemned the Government, of which he was but an officer, and criticised Mr. Cartwright in his policy and measures.

MR. TILLEY : I made no speech at all.

SIR ALBERT J. SMITH : Then the papers misrepresented you.

MR. TILLEY : No ; they did not.

SIR ALBERT J. SMITH : You went to St. John's for the purpose of accepting the nomination.

MR. TILLEY : No ; I did not go there for that purpose. I knew nothing about it.

SIR A. J. SMITH : The hon gentleman was in St. John receiving a requisition. The papers published the next morning that the Governor had accepted the nomination and made a speech. Whether he did or not, he (Sir A. J. Smith) did not know personally. The meeting was not an open one, but was attended by a large number of strong political partisans, and the hon. gentleman held office as Governor several weeks after. This was an unprecedented proceeding, because the Governor was supposed to be, for the time being, at all events, without any party politics. The hon. the Finance Minister appeared before the people of St. John's under very favourable circumstances. He had all the prestige and moral influence which the occupation of that high position could give him ; he had no political sins for five years to answer for ; he had many political and personal friends who would stand by him under all circumstances. The people of St. John were anxious and interested about the question of Protection, and, from his utterances, were not induced to believe that the scheme now submitted to this House was the scheme and policy then contemplated. If it was, why did he seek to remove from the minds of the people then that his

policy was one of Protection ? Why did he communicate with the First Minister ? The telegram of the First Minister implied that there was no such thing as Protection contemplated, but simply a readjustment of the tariff. Was this a readjustment of the tariff ? It was admittedly a policy of extreme Protection. Without this telegram he could not have been elected, and with all these influences and powerful agencies, personal, official, and moral influence, he was only elected by a majority of nine. That illustrated very strongly that the sentiments of the people was not in favour of Protection, and the Finance Minister must have received letters innumerable from St. John and other parts of New Brunswick, complaining that this policy was most oppressive. He (Sir A. J. Smith) did not believe he had received letters in which it was recommended, but must have received letters in which it was almost universally condemned. The Finance Minister was elected by a majority of nine, and he thought more, that on that occasion, in addition to all the other agencies used by that hon. gentleman, he told the people of St. John's that he had the virtue to resist a proffered bribe of \$45,000. He (Sir A. J. Smith) thought the Minister of Finance was not justified in resorting to such means during that election. He was not aware that any such offer was made to him (Mr. Tilley). He (Sir A. J. Smith) had some correspondence with him, and he had no hesitation in saying that he did not care whether it was made private or public. The Finance Minister told the people of St. John that he was so anxious to serve his country, so anxious to obtain the position of Finance Minister, that he was unable to accept the offer of \$45,000 made to him. After the election, the hon. the Finance Minister was kind enough to pay his (Sir A. J. Smith's) county a visit, accompanied by the Minister of Public Works, the Hon. Mr. Mitchell, and the hon. member for King's (Mr. Donville). He (Sir A. J. Smith) thought he was in Ottawa at the time ; but he saw an account of the affair, and there was a torch-light procession, and all that kind of thing, in the town of Moncton, where those gentlemen had come to attend a meeting. The hon. the Finance Minister, he thought, was