

for consideration? A level duty of 20 per cent, or 22½ per cent or 25 per cent upon all articles irrespective of whether they are produced in the country or not, could be easily passed. One page of a Bill would carry into effect in the most perfect manner the ideas of tariff which the hon. member for Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright) has advocated, and I presume still advocates.

My hon. friend from York, N.B. (Mr. Foster) having referred to the fact that several gentlemen from the local governments had been brought in to the Federal Ministry to the exclusion of some old members of the late House who had been faithful supporters of the Liberal party, was answered by my hon. friend from Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright) with this statement: that the hon. leader of the Government, if he could find better men than these old stagers, surely ought to be allowed to take them. Well, the hon. the leader of the Government thought he could find a better Finance Minister in the Premier of one of the provinces, and he took him, and I think it is an evidence that the little snubbing that the hon. gentleman from Oxford has had has improved his temper, when we find him so ready to confess that a better man was found to take the place expected.

But, surely something might be done with regard to the tariff this session. I will not occupy the time of the House in referring to the matters which my hon. friend from York (Mr. Foster) referred to, such as the duties on flour and coal. But there is one subject upon which the Government might at all events act with unanimity and with promptness. There is one article that we heard about on every platform in the Dominion, one tax which was referred to universally as being entirely without justification. I speak of the duty on coal oil. Pray, what is to prevent a short Bill being introduced at the present session to reduce, or to remove altogether, the duty upon coal oil. I think I can tell what will prevent it? I think the two gentlemen who represent the county of Lambton will prevent it, and I venture to say that this free trade Government, this Government for a tariff for revenue only will never seriously interfere with the coal oil industry of the county of Lambton, either in this session or the next session. The hon. the leader of the Government gave as one reason for the result of the election, that sectional feelings had been appealed to by us, especially in the province of Quebec, and he told us that there had been an earthquake all over this broad Dominion, and that we had as yet failed to appreciate its causes. Sir, as my hon. friend from York (Mr. Foster) showed conclusively to-day, that earthquake or landslide or whatever it might be termed, was confined to the single province of Quebec, and I believe that the extent of that landslide or earthquake, is the best possible explanation, and the best possible answer to the question as to who had appealed suc-

cessfully to sectional feelings or racial considerations. Sir, the province of Quebec had been up to the present general elections, the bulwark of Conservatism. The province of Quebec before confederation was the stronghold of Sir George Etienne Cartier and of the Conservative party. The province of Quebec, ever since then, has been the banner Conservative province of the Dominion. Never has anything like a substantial majority been obtained before by the Liberal party in the province of Quebec. What do we find now? We find not only the hon. gentleman's majority in the House, but more than his whole majority, coming from the province of Quebec. What has produced that tremendous change? What has brought about that great revolution? Was it appeals to racial and religious prejudices by us, who won only fifteen seats in the province of Quebec, or was it an appeal by the hon. gentleman, and more particularly by his friends and lieutenants in the province of Quebec? Nothing could more clearly establish who has been guilty of these appeals than the result itself. Why, Sir, what was the plan of campaign of the hon. gentleman and his friends in the province of Quebec? The plan of campaign was this: First, to satisfy and to remove the religious scruples of the people of that province upon the question of the Manitoba schools. That was done by taking in one hand the mandament, which simply stated that candidates favouring remedial legislation were alone to receive support, and taking in the other hand a pledge of the most strong and binding description made by every candidate, that he would support a Remedial Bill, no matter who introduced it, or from which side of the House it emanated. Thus were the scruples of the people removed. Thus did the hon. gentleman and his lieutenants pave the way for the action of the clergy in his favour in the province of Quebec, and having secured that result, having secured the support of nearly all the Liberal clergymen—I am using the word Liberal in the sense of Rouge—then the appeal to national feeling was made upon a ground that was ripe for the harvest. Sir, the argument that carried the province of Quebec in the last two or three days may be summed up in the six words: "Hurrah for Laurier, one of ourselves." That was the potent argument, and that is the explanation of the extraordinary results which occurred in the province of Quebec.

But there were some other reasons besides this appeal to help to secure a French Canadian Prime Minister, and besides the promise that Sir Richard Cartwright should not be Finance Minister. There was another and a remarkably potent reason; that was the most lavish, the most corrupt, the most abominable expenditure of money in the constituencies that has ever occurred in that province.