

THE LIFE AND LETTERS OF SIR CHARLES TUPPER, BART.

CHAPTER I

THE ELECTIONS OF 1882—APPOINTMENT AS HIGH
COMMISSIONER (1883)

PARLIAMENT opened on February 9, 1882. The Speech from the Throne, after an account of the progress made in constructing the Canadian Pacific Railway, contained the following :

"I am pleased to be able to state that the traffic on the Inter-colonial Railway has largely increased, and that this line during the past fiscal year has been maintained and operated, for the first time in its history, without loss to the country."

On February 23 Sir S. L. Tilley made his Budget speech. Sir Richard Cartwright, the Liberal critic, was prepared for his task. The drift of sentiment for the past two years had specially qualified him for the duty of examining the financial policy of the Government. At Coburg, Mr. Blake had weakened on the fiscal policy of the Liberal party. But in criticising Sir Leonard Tilley's Budget speech, Sir Richard Cartwright made it plain that he was not prepared to support Mr. Blake. In him the National Policy would have a bitter and uncompromising opponent.

In his Budget speech Sir Leonard Tilley discussed all of the essential phases and many of the details of the