

April 30, 1874

view of the case; and if those charges were true there would be all the better ground for believing he was right when he said that if this supply were granted to the Government it would be a long time before they would require a similar change. He concluded by moving that the resolutions be referred back to Committee for the purpose of making these proposed modifications. (*Cheers.*)

Hon. Mr. TUPPER said no doubt the House would remember that when he felt it his duty, on the occasion of the delivery of the budget speech, to make a few strictures upon the statements contained in that speech, the leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Mackenzie) replied to him (Hon. Mr. Tupper) in terms of very great severity, and, if his arguments were not calculated to appeal to the intelligence of the House, they were certainly made in strong, if not forcible terms.

The leader of the Government stated on that occasion that there was no observation in the speech of the Hon. Minister of Finance (Hon. Mr. Cartwright) that called for any such criticism on his (Hon. Mr. Tupper's) part. Never in the history of this Parliament was a speech delivered from the Treasury benches by a Finance Minister of so aggressive a character as that which the hon. gentleman on that occasion delivered, and he (Hon. Mr. Tupper) would have been false to himself and false to his colleagues in the late Government who were not now in the House, to the Administration of which he had the honour to be a member, and false to the facts, which was more important than all, if he had not promptly shown the fallacies with which the hon. gentleman had endeavoured to mislead the House and the people.

If he (Hon. Mr. Tupper) were disposed to be severe on the hon. gentleman, he would be unequal to the task, after having sat in his place for the past hour and listened to what must have been one of the most painful speeches ever delivered from the Treasury benches, and one of the most painful humiliations any Minister was ever subjected to. The hon. gentleman who had undertaken the conduct of the financial affairs of the country had stated to the House that, upon reconsideration, the policy he had submitted, and had endeavoured to force upon the country, was not only open to the criticism he (Hon. Mr. Tupper) had offered, but that the suggestions made were worthy of adoption.

He would at once pass to the consideration of the main points at issue between the hon. gentleman and himself. It would not be necessary for him to deal with the first branch of the question which he had presented to the House a few evenings ago. It would not be necessary for him now to submit the evidence and statistics furnished to the House by the Government itself in proof of the unsoundness of the hon. gentleman's views. There was no reason to suppose that the trade and commercial condition of the country was such as to make it necessary for the Minister of Finance to take the view which, unfortunately for the interests of the country, he had taken with regard to its financial position.

The hon. gentleman had not undertaken to grapple with the arguments he (Hon. Mr. Tupper) had submitted to the House a few evenings ago. He did not grapple with the fact that, assuming there was a slight decrease in the total imports of something like a

million dollars as compared with the enormous imports of the previous year, the imports did not touch the question of the revenue. That was so far as imports for consumption were concerned, on which revenue depended. The facts were against him. The imports for consumption showed a large increase.

He would pass on to the next question on which the hon. gentleman and himself were at an undoubted issue. In the Speech with which Parliament was opened there was a declaration that there was such a deficiency for the current year in the receipts as compared with the expenditure as would involve the necessity of an application to Parliament to supply means to meet the deficit. The late Government was assailed as being the cause of this increased taxation which the hon. gentleman proposed to impose upon the country.

On this point he was at an undoubted issue with the Finance Minister, and he would take his own outside figures to show that he was millions astray. The Minister of Finance said the estimates for the current year should have been \$24,100,000. The estimates were \$21,740,000. The increase in revenue for the first nine months of 1873-1874 over 1872-1873 was \$1,316,668. This ratio of increase would add \$520,181 to the estimate of \$21,740,000. Then the surplus from last year, which they had in hand to meet any deficiency in the current year, amounted to \$1,638,821, which being added to the former sum, gave a total of no less than \$21,389,900.

The Finance Minister was not justified in applying to Parliament for one dollar of taxation, for, taking his own outside figures, there were only \$200,998 to be provided. But there was another item to be brought into account here, and that was the money appropriated for the redemption of debt. They had paid into the sinking fund during the year \$481,665; and therefore, taking the hon. gentleman's own showing, they would have a surplus remaining of \$280,667. (*Cheers.*)

The Hon. Finance Minister had fallen into one or two grave errors in estimating the financial affairs of the country. In page 32 of the Estimates it would be found that there was a sum of \$766,200 which the hon. gentleman declared would require to be re-voted. This was upwards of three-quarters of a million, which, according to the hon. gentleman's showing would be unappropriated up to 1st July, 1874.

Then he wished to draw attention to another point. He maintained that the hon. gentleman had made a mistake in the statement of expenditure which had been laid on the table of the House of nearly half a million of dollars. In one item the hon. gentleman startled the House and the country with the declaration he made as to the expenditure and deficit that would exist in regard to the working of the Government railways.

He (Hon. Mr. Tupper) might say that he had watched the operations of those works in regard to the receipts they would give the country, the expenditure upon them, and everything connected with them, in the most narrow manner for fifteen years, and he would pledge himself to prove the mistake in the hon. gentleman's figures, as he would bring down a detailed statement showing how