

of the resources of this country. What I was pointing out to the House was that, at the time Mr. BRYDGES understood that I was a stockholder in that company, he reported that the coal was worthless, and that a most disadvantageous bargain had been made in connection with the branch of railway, which I believe was made upon his own recommendation. But when he went down to St. John, and there learned who the proprietors were, he apologised to them, and made a contract with them for the supply of 10,000 tons of coal.

Hon. Mr. SMITH—To whom did he apologise?

Hon. Mr. TUPPER—He apologised to the President of the Company; and not only did he apologise, but he induced the Government to make them a present of five miles of railway, and to relay it with new iron. The hon., the Minister of Customs says he has placed his stock in the hands of a broker. I ask him what would be more calculated to damage its sale than this same report of Mr. BRYDGES, which is in direct contradiction to the report of one of the best authorities on the continent, Sir WILLIAM LOGAN, who declares it to be the best coal in America. I ask the House what could be more calculated to injure the stock of this Company than the report of Mr. BRYDGES, and what better calculated to restore it to its value than the fact that he went and purchased 10,000 tons for the use of the railway, whose management was in his hands. But I tell the hon. Minister of Customs that I believe he is incapable of having improper transactions with Mr. BRYDGES, and I will go further and say there is not a member of the present administration who would be connected with any transaction that was not perfectly fair and above board. So that if hon. gentlemen opposite feel I am personally attacking them, they are entirely mistaken; I am only showing in respect to this man who assumes to be autocrat of the railways in Canada, that if there is a man who is ready to bend his policy and statements to the interests of those he served it is C. J. BRYDGES. Well, he made another wonderful discovery—that the country had been robbed to the extent of \$12,000 by the Spring Hill Mining Company giving short measure. The evidence of Mr. CARVELL shows, however, there was not one dollar lost in the

purchase of coal, and Mr. BRYDGES was at last compelled to admit that the Government had received more coals, instead of less coals than they had paid for. Yet that gentleman (Mr. BRYDGES) so far forgot what was due to those who had supported and sustained him in the time of trial, when he was persecuted by the gentlemen then in Opposition, that he was ready to throw discredit on his former friends in order to obtain consideration from his new found friends. I believe Mr. BRYDGES has made a fatal mistake. I believe he has not only shown his incompetency in his report, but in assuming the position he has taken he has given pain to every friend in this country. Has he a friend in this country who does not feel pained in relation to his management of these railways, when he showed that he was ready to go down to the maritime provinces and lend himself to men who, during long years, had traduced him in every possible way, who had regarded him as utterly incompetent to manage the Intercolonial Railway, and who is called upon to make a report, which is our vindication here. We cannot regard with increased respect a man who is so soon ready to forget his former friends, and to sustain those who were in past years his most bitter foes. But what has been the result! Because there is a more important question underlying the matter than any I have yet touched upon, I say the result of his management has been disastrous to the Government and the country. I say that clothed with the power to deal with these railways, he has raised up throughout the Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick a host of enemies, among those who would otherwise have been friends of the Government.

Hon. Mr. SMITH—So much the better for you.

Hon. Mr. TUPPER—If Mr. BRYDGES had been anxious to be our friend he could not have pursued a policy which would have been more disastrous to the Government. In the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries' own county, public meeting after public meeting has been held, denouncing the mismanagement and cruel oppression in connection with the railway, and that, too, by the hon. gentleman's own constituents.

*Hon. Mr. Tupper.*