

done. I ask him if nothing was done when, under those circumstances, representing Canada, I went to the Right Hon. Mr. Chamberlain, the Colonial Minister, and got from him a pledge to contribute from the British exchequer £75,000 sterling per annum for ten years. Was it doing nothing when, under the authority of this Parliament, we advertised for tenders, and obtained one from the Messrs. Allan, including the Glasgow Allans, people of immense wealth, and who sent one of their partners over here to negotiate the matter. We got a tender, and everything was arranged, and the only thing wanting was the signature of the Governor General to the Order in Council accepting the tender, subject to ratification by the English Government. Was that doing nothing? It is true that His Excellency refused, although he knew that the Order in Council was drafted under the authority of Parliament, for the purpose of saving time, and although there was no excuse for refusing to sign, because the contract provided that it was subject to the approval of the House, which was then to meet in three weeks. Yet it was refused. My right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) came into power. I put my dignity in my pocket and when I went out of office I wrote him a letter and begged him to get the signature of the Governor General to the Order in Council, as it would save a year. It would have saved two years. By the first of May next, that fleet of fast steamers that the hon. gentleman now declares to be so eminently important to Canada would have been crossing the Atlantic, shortening the time and making Canada the highway and thoroughfare for the mail communication and travel of a great part of America and Great Britain. But the hon. member did not do it. He took a very extraordinary course. Nothing was done about signing the Order in Council. But the hon. gentleman did something. What was it? One of his colleagues came out at a public meeting at the Board of Trade of Quebec and denounced the fast service and said that it was not wanted, and this was the gentleman the Prime Minister sent to England to negotiate for the fast line service. Is it any wonder it failed? He knows, and the Minister of Finance knows as well as I do, that when the hon. member for Quebec West (Mr. Dobell) left England, and when the Finance Minister left England, they despaired of accomplishing anything with relation to this contract. Two years have been lost, and not a keel has been laid. A contract may have been made, and, after a great struggle, the securities may have been got upon the pledge to return them; I do not believe they could have been got upon any other terms. But where is the work? Not a blow has been struck. Two years have been lost, and you will have to begin de novo, and you will have to avail yourselves of what we secured, and that

Sir CHARLES TUPPER.

is the aid of the Imperial Government to the extent of £75,000 sterling per annum.

I have only one more remark to make in regard to the speeches of hon. gentlemen opposite, and I regret that I am compelled to make it. I read with amazement the following statement made at the Canadian Club dinner by the right hon. the First Minister:—

The time might come when Canada might claim a more intimate union than at present, but so long as England sent to Canada as representatives of the Crown such men as they had had he did not think there would be any desire for change on the part of Canadians. (Hear, hear.) Canada had been exceedingly fortunate in the men who had come out there to represent England, and Lord Aberdeen had endeared himself to all Canadians.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Will any man in this House say "Hear, hear" to the following sentence? I do not believe it. Sir, I do not believe there is a man so lost to propriety.

He had shown that he could pass through a crisis, keeping an even balance among all parties.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. That only shows what hon. gentlemen are capable of. I ask the First Minister, I ask him in the presence of this House and of the country, whether he knew or did not know that when that change of government occurred in which he said the Governor General showed that he could keep an even balance among all parties, the Governor General's conduct was denounced by the press representing more than half the electors of Canada?

Some hon. MEMBERS. No, no.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Almost every portion of the Conservative press denounced the course pursued on that occasion as a violation of the constitution. I proved on the floor of this House by evidence that no man could meet, by evidence that the First Minister did not meet then and cannot meet now, that he had violated on that occasion every British and every Canadian precedent. Under the circumstances—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I think that the hon. gentleman should withdraw that remark.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I did not know that I was out of order.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. There is a rule of the House, which is well known, no doubt, to the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper), that nothing is to be said disrespectful to the Governor General.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. You entirely mistake me, Sir. I am not saying anything disrespectful of the Governor General, because the First Minister assumed the responsibility of the act, and I have the right to deal with it and to find fault with him