

the government after having introduced on the floor of this House and presented to you as a worthy member of this House a man who was sent here by the unanimous voice of his constituents to vote down this government for having trampled the constitution of Canada under their feet. This is a scandal, I say, such as we have never witnessed before, and I trust that, in the long future history of this country, such a scandal shall never be known again. If my right hon. friend has so completely lost his grasp upon the control of public affairs, if he has become so completely subordinate to any member of his government as to still retain that minister, he cannot hope from the intelligent people of this country or from the intelligent members of this House on one side or on the other anything but the contempt which must always fall upon a man occupying his high position who makes himself the vassal and tool of one who sits behind him.

I shall not say more upon that subject, but I have one more point to refer to in which the Minister of Public Works is interested, a subject to which I shall draw the attention of the House directly.

I am happy, however, to say that there is one paragraph in the speech from the Throne to which I give my most hearty approval, and it is this:

In this connection, it is a matter of pride and gratification to the people of this Dominion that, in addition to the contingents sent by the government, another Canadian force is being organized and despatched at the personal expense of the High Commissioner of Canada. This generous and patriotic action upon the part of Lord Strathcona reflects high honour on him and on the Dominion he represents.

To every word of that, I subscribe most heartily. Never in the history of Canada has any Canadian done an act that reflects greater honour upon himself or one that establishes greater claim upon the confidence of his country than this noble and generous act of Lord Strathcona. Why, Sir, it puts to blush the action of the government. The government shrink, they hold back, they are only pressed from point to point by the power which alone appears to influence them—the upheaval of public sentiment all over this country, to which they are compelled to bow because their fate depends upon it. But in contrast with this we find this noble action of a great Scotch Canadian, a man of Scottish birth, who spent his boyhood and the prime of his life in Canada and became identified with Canada's greatest interests, a man whose princely generosity in the cause of suffering humanity is instanced in the enormous amount contributed by him to one of the finest and most magnificent hospitals in the world, the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal, a man whose princely benefactions to the great cause of education have raised an undying monument to his name and char-

acter in the city of Montreal, in connection with McGill College and the Strathcona Institute—I say that no act of his life, great and princely as his services have been to the people of Canada, will shine with greater lustre, and nothing he has done will be handed down from generation to generation as a more munificent and glorious act than this contribution of his own private means to pay the expenses of the equipment and transport of a regiment of cavalry to uphold the stability of the British Empire and the honour of Canada. I say that under these circumstances I rejoice to see that the government have made a fitting recognition of his claims to consideration by the tribute they have paid him in this speech from the Throne, every word of which I most heartily endorse. But there is another man whose name is not known but who is equally entitled to recognition at the hands of this government, there is a man who, comparing his means with those of Lord Strathcona, has done still greater service to Canada, and has shown even higher patriotism than Lord Strathcona: I need not say that I refer to the gentleman whose modesty will not permit me to disclose his name, but who enabled me, as representing him, to secure an insurance on the lives of the first contingent to the extent of a million dollars. Of this gentleman, whose act, however, I communicated to the government, as I felt it was in the interests of the country that it should be communicated, the government have not a word to say; but on the contrary the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) assails, and vilifies and traduces this gentleman, whose name stands in the shade. What does the Minister of Public Works say:

It is easy to play a farce as Sir Charles Tupper does at this moment in giving guarantees to insurance companies; but it is not thus that the future of this country is decided; it is not thus that a government that understands its duties decides and acts.

I say that if Canada and the colonies are called upon to take part in the wars of the empire they should have the right of representation and of voting in the Imperial councils.

Why should the hon. gentleman denounce as a farce, the munificent act of this gentleman on behalf of those brave soldiers who have gone out to do battle for the honour and interests of Canada and the empire, giving each one of them the assurance that if he falls in battle, as there is too much risk that he will, those depending upon him will not be left homeless and houseless? Where is there a man with a spark of patriotism in his breast, with a spark of manly sentiment in his bosom, that would undertake to vilify, and deride, and treat with contempt one of the most magnificent acts of private generosity that has ever been exhibited in the whole history of Canada? I say again, that in view of the