

his colleagues would take, he himself had arrived at that conclusion, and that the moment the legal difficulties were removed he intended to present that view to his colleagues.

Mr. JONES. What date was that?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I say that took place when I was here last summer, when I had not the smallest idea of again occupying a seat in this House, and was looking at the matter purely in the interests of the country.

Mr. KIRK. It was after the June elections.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I cannot help that. I am sure the hon. member for Guysboro' will say that from the first down to this hour I availed myself, both in this House and out of it, of every possible means of securing the completion of that road. When this matter broke down I came back here and asked for a larger subsidy—for what I then believed would be sufficient to secure the completion of the road. I gave every evidence of my interest in the undertaking, and I may tell the hon. gentleman that it was not by the June elections that I was stimulated in the slightest degree to do what I did in this matter. But when I came back to Canada I felt that the first question that would be asked in the county of Cumberland, in the county of Colchester, in the county of Pictou, would be, what do you intend to do with this road? It was very natural that they should do so; a large amount of money had been spent on the road, and they were promised that it should be completed. And I did say to my colleagues, "I want this matter brought to a determination; I want this important question settled, so that we can say to Nova Scotia what the Government intend to do with regard to it." I meet at once the insinuation that there was the slightest desire or intention to use that question in the least degree as an inducement for political support. If I wanted to use it to do that, I would have done as the hon. member for West Bruce (Mr. Blake) did; I would have sent a man of high standing and character in the party down to the country to tell the electors that if they did so-and-so the road would be built, and make it contingent on the success of the Government and the party. The hon. gentleman looks up in surprise. Let me ask him to read the speech delivered by the Hon. Timothy Warren Anglin, when he was sent down to Nova Scotia to organise that Province in the interest of the hon. gentleman. I say that if I wanted to bribe the constituencies of Nova Scotia, to bribe the counties of Cumberland, Pictou and Colchester, I would have adopted the astute policy of the hon. member for West Bruce as delivered to the people of Nova Scotia by the mouth of one of the leaders of the party, who announced that he felt it incumbent upon him to go down there at such an important crisis and speak with the authority that a man should who had taken so prominent a part in the party as himself.

Mr. JONES. He did not come down for that purpose at all. He came down to attend a mining meeting, of which he was secretary.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Well, I will allow him to speak for himself. He says:

"I felt, Sir, as you happily expressed it, that in the present emergency"—

That is, on the eve of a great general election—

"we have all a common duty to perform, and that if I could, by anything I might be able to say, render service to the great Liberal party in this Province, it was my duty, as a sincere Liberal, and as one who has held a somewhat prominent position in the ranks for some years, to endeavor to discharge my duty to the best of my poor ability."

That is the way he announced his mission to the people of Halifax and the people of Nova Scotia. He proclaimed on the housetops that he held a prominent position in the

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party, and that in this emergency he felt it necessary to go there and discharge his duty—by doing what? By propounding the policy of the hon. member for West Bruce.

Mr. BLAKE. Hear, hear.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I will give the hon. gentleman his words, and then he will see whether he can find breath for a derisive cheer. I say, Sir, you will search the records of public speaking in Canada in vain to find a more glaring, indecent attempt by a party, through an influential member, professing to speak for the leader of that party, to bribe constituencies and provinces wholesale. Sir, we know what the hon. member for West Bruce has done for the Province of Nova Scotia in this House. We know that his policy and the policy of his party has been to do what he is doing to-day—doing his little best to obstruct anything and everything that has been propounded on the floor of this House to advance the interest of the people of Nova Scotia, or to remove that sentiment of dissatisfaction that his party succeeded in creating at the time of the Union. What does he do now? After having done all that he could do here, after having obstructed, after having taken a course that was calculated to intensify whatever dissatisfaction existed in that Province, after having adopted a policy that was calculated to bring about the very thing that every patriotic Canadian of any shade of opinion deplored—that is, a proposal for the secession of one of the most important Provinces in this Dominion from this great Confederation; having, I say, adopted a course that resulted in that, that kept alive that hostility and dissatisfaction, the hon. gentleman, on the eve of a general election, sends down to the Province of Nova Scotia a man who declares himself to be one of the leaders of his party, and who is so intimately associated with the hon. member for West Bruce that he is able, *ex cathedra*, to propound to the people of Halifax and the Province of Nova Scotia the policy that the hon. gentleman will pursue in the early day when he has control of the public affairs of this country. This, the hon. gentleman does, speaking by the voice of one who could not use the language that he ventured to use unless he had the authority of that hon. gentleman to use it. And I say that alive, keenly alive, as that hon. gentleman is, to the utterances and declarations of the policy that was ascribed to himself, ready as he is to criticise the most minute reference to his public policy, made by whoever it may be made and wherever it may be made—I say it is too late for the hon. gentleman to disclaim the language that I am now going to read, as placed in the mouth of Mr. Anglin, in propounding his policy to the country. He says:

"I am satisfied we could re-distribute the burden so as to make it bear less hard upon the people of Nova Scotia, and so as to bear more fairly upon all the Dominion. We could sweep away the tax upon flour."

Was that the policy of the hon. member for West Bruce?

Mr. BLAKE. Yes.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Yes, it was his policy down to a certain period to declare the tax on flour one of the most odious that ever a Legislature fastened on a people, but the time came when the hon. gentleman found himself face to face with the millers of Ontario, and then he altered his policy. Then he found the tax on flour must not be repealed, but should be modified. He would go the full length on corn meal, but flour should stand as before.

Mr. BLAKE. No.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. The hon. gentleman had better read his speech at Malvern, and see whether he there denounced the tax upon flour as one of the most odious imposts ever placed upon a people. He will find there he qualified all that, took it all back, and was prepared then for modifications, not only on flour, but on coal. The man who for seven long years had made this Chamber echo and