

Charles Tupper went to England as High Commissioner, and he returned to Canada to act as Minister of Railways in December, 1883, and since that time has been in Canada; that the tenure of the offices of Minister of Railways and Canals and High Commissioner, simultaneously, is not fitting, and this House disapproves of the continuance of the arrangement."

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Mr. Speaker, the subject of Sir Charles Tupper's appointment has been so fully ventilated already during this Session that, even were I able to discuss it, I do not think there would be any great necessity for occupying the time of the House. I have lost my voice, but I will say a few words, and perhaps I can make myself heard, in regard to it. I think, after the explanations that were made to the House, after the state of affairs that was spread upon the Order in Council appointing my hon. friend, this motion might very well have been spared; but I suppose it is moved as a censure on the Government, or as a censure on my hon. friend as High Commissioner, or both. I wish the hon. gentleman joy of his motion; I do not think he will, either in this House or in the country, take anything by it. The circumstances have been mentioned before, but I shall shortly recapitulate them. Sir Charles Tupper's health—I can speak of him as Sir Charles Tupper, as High Commissioner, if not as a member of the House—it is known, and his friends and the country regretted it, that his health broke down near the end of last Session. His health was so much affected that we feared he might be compelled prematurely to withdraw from his usefulness in the office he performed so well, so faithfully and so satisfactorily to the country. He was desirous to do so himself, but his colleagues, and myself as First Minister, were exceedingly unwilling to lose the advantages of his services, to lose the advantage of his great ability, to lose the advantage of the great power he exhibits in this House, as a member of the Government and as a member of Parliament, and to lose the advantage of his services as Minister of Railways. Then, it so happened that Sir Alexander Galt had, for personal reasons, found it inconvenient to remain longer in England, but with some pressure he remained until the 1st June. The Order in Council explains that that being the case Sir Charles Tupper had kindly consented for the present to accept the office of High Commissioner and to go to England. There was a twofold reason for his doing so. We knew, first, that he would perform the duties in England satisfactorily; and, secondly, we felt that, from the change of scene, and from the every-day work of his duties we might hope to see him restored to his pristine health and vigour; and we are all proud and happy to know that, to a great extent, the effort which was made to get him to go to England has produced that satisfactory result, and I think my hon. friends and the country will acknowledge that this House and the country have been great gainers by the presence of the ability and health and vigour of the hon. gentleman in this House. Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman did not go for his own profit or emolument. The salary of the High Commissioner is \$10,000 a year. The salary of the Minister is \$7,000 a year. My hon. friend preferred, as it was an experiment, a successful experiment, as I have just stated, to draw the modest salary—we are all modest men, Mr. Speaker, we Ministers—of \$7,000 rather than the higher, the larger, the more remunerating salary attached to the office of High Commissioner. During his absence in England we are proud of the success which attended his exertions, both as a diplomatist, and as an immigration agent general, and in his capacity as watching over the best interests of the country. In all these several capacities my hon. friend was happily successful, and he has laid, as a diplomatist, the basis of arrangements which I hope will be successful, and in his hands too—they cannot be in better hands—both in France and in Spain; and we all know what he did in the way of saving and rescuing, as he alone could rescue, from the combination of qualities he pos-

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esses, and the vigour of his character carrying those qualities into effect, the live cattle trade of Canada from utter and absolute ruin and loss. If it had not been, Mr. Speaker, for his acquaintance with the pathology of animals, if he had not taken up the case with vigour, within a few days these cargoes of Canadian cattle would have been destroyed as being affected with Texas fever; Canada would have been scheduled as an infected country by the Privy Council, and it would take more power than Canada can exercise, more power than the United States had been able to exercise in England, to get that verdict altered; because, as it was stated the other day, they are very slow in England on these matters, and the Canadian cattle trade would have been permanently ruined, perhaps, if it had not been for these fortunate circumstances. Providence always helps the Conservatives, it is said, and certainly there was never a more providential incident in the history of Canada than the fact that my hon. friend, with his peculiar knowledge, happened to be in England at that time. The hon. gentleman, however, says that the offices are quite inconsistent, that they are incompatible. I do not admit the incompatibility; I do not see that there is anything incompatible in the two positions. The hon. gentleman says: "Oh, but if he is High Commissioner he should reside in England." So he has. So resident Ambassadors reside in England, but we find that resident Ambassadors, if they happen to be members of either House of Parliament, return on special occasions. If they happen to be Peers, they return, continually, to perform their duties in the House of Lords. Lord Lyons, Lord Cowper, and every other Lord who happens to be an Ambassador, during the Session of Parliament, returns to vote for and with his party. And the hon. gentleman said: "Oh, it is quite inconsistent, because, as High Commissioner, he is subordinate to the Minister of Agriculture, and at the same time he is equal with him as being a colleague and a fellow Minister." The same position is held by Lord Spencer at this moment. He is Lord Lieutenant of Ireland; he is a member of the Government, he is a member of the Cabinet this moment in England. They never found out in England this new doctrine which the hon. gentleman, with his usual ingenuity has sprung upon us. It is unknown in England, unknown to the English Parliament, unknown to English practice. Lord Spencer is Lord Lieutenant in Ireland, and he is subordinate to the Secretary of State for Ireland; and yet, as Lord Lieutenant for Ireland, he represents the Queen directly. He is more than Governor General, he is Deputy Sovereign and Viceroy. And yet the point was never raised, even by Mr. Parnell, and he does not like Lord Spencer. And yet we find that even Mr. Parnell has not brought up any such objection, an objection I must say, unknown in England, and unknown here until the hon. gentleman started this hare, and found this mare's nest. But the hon. gentleman said that, at all events, the duties of Minister of Railways ought to have been performed by himself. Well, I fancy that the hon. gentleman, when he was a Minister, found that occasionally some of his colleagues were absent. Some went to England, and their duties were performed by a brother colleague. But he says it is quite wrong; that a commission under the Great Seal of the Dominion was actually issued for Sir Charles Tupper, declaring him Minister of Railways, and no other man, woman, or child, could perform the duties under that commission but Sir Charles Tupper! Why didn't the hon. gentleman find it out before? I dare say that when the hon. gentleman was Minister, the Finance Minister in the Cabinet went home to England and somebody performed his duties. And there were most important duties to be performed; they had to issue, perhaps, debentures, make a large conversion of securities, and have large dealings with the finances of the country. And yet the hon. gentleman allowed that to go on in his time, and only now finds out