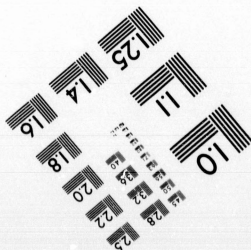
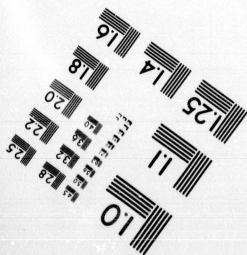
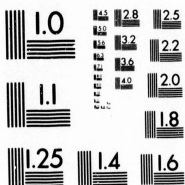


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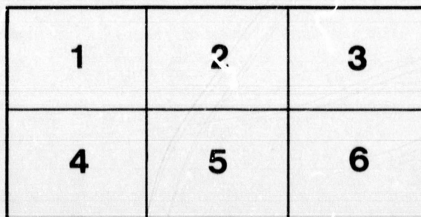
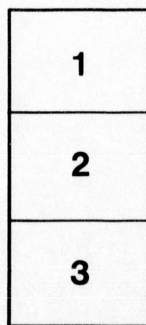
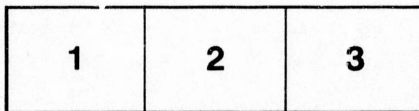
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*Can. Complimentary Banquet
 Pam. to Sir Charles Tupper.
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COMPLIMENTARY BANQUET
 TO
 SIR CHARLES TUPPER,
 AT THE
 HALIFAX HOTEL,
 THURSDAY, JUNE 14th, 1883.

The complimentary banquet tendered by the personal and political friends of Sir Charles Tupper resident in this city came off in the Halifax Hotel, as announced, on the evening of the 14th June. The large and handsome dining hall of the "Halifax" was beautifully decorated for the occasion with flags, flowers, and transparencies,—a handsome portrait of Sir Charles occupying a prominent position.

The following gentlemen were present :

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Sir Charles Tupper | Geof Morrow, Esq |
| Sir A T Galt | Joseph Kaye, Esq |
| Hon Senator McFarlane | ——— Pattison, Esq |
| Hon Senator Almon | J T Wylde, Esq |
| Hon Senator McKay | Leonard Symonds, Esq |
| M H Richey, M P | Walter Allison Esq |
| M B Daly, M P | Alpin Grant, Esq |
| D B Woodworth M P | Dr Wikwire |
| J McDougall, M P | Dr Trneman |
| C H Tupper, M P | Dr DeWolf |
| H N Paine, M P | Duncan, Waddell, Esq |
| D McN Parker, M L C | John Causey, Esq |
| A C Bell, M P P | Alfred Whitman, Esq |
| R Hockin, M P P | Mark Curry, Esq |
| C J T Washend, M P P | Wiley Smith, Esq |
| J F Stairs, Esq | Donald Keith, Esq |
| Stephen Tobin, Esq | Geo Wiswell, Esq |
| J J Bremner, Esq | J A Shaw, Esq |
| Allison Smith, Esq | Jas R Lithgow, Esq |
| Major General Laurie | John Forbes, Esq |
| Lieut Col Stewart | Donald G Keith, Esq |
| Mayor Fraser | J L Archibald, Esq |
| Recorder J N Ritchie | Dr. E Clay |
| Ald O Bryan | A W Hart, Esq |
| Ald McLellan | Geo E Franklin, Esq |
| Ald B A Smith | Prof C F Fraser |
| Ald Hesstien | J M DeWolf, Esq |
| Ald McIntosh | ——— Jordan, Esq |
| E Kenny, Esq | S M Brookfield, Esq |
| V J Stairs, Esq | Geo E Moxton, Esq |
| S Macleay, Esq | J C P Frazee, Esq |
| Los Seaton, Esq | A B Bligh, Esq |
| As A Moren Esq | J W Marvin, Esq |
| M P Black, Esq | B G Gray, Esq |
| John Dull, Esq | R L Borden, Esq |
| John Pugh, Esq | Wm Chisholm, Esq |
| A Ogden, Esq | H H Bligh, Esq |
| D V Chipman, Esq | Prof Charles McDonald |
| N Freeman, Esq | S A White, Esq |
| T A Ritchie, Esq | N K Bigelow, Esq |
| Sanford Farming, Esq | J Y Payzant, Esq |
| B W Ish, Esq | J E Wilson, Esq |
| John White, Esq | C F Vose, Esq |
| B C Walker, Esq | Dr W C Delaney |

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|--------------------|---------------------|
| John Starr, Esq | G G Dustan, Esq |
| C F DeWolf, Esq | Wm Gossip, Esq |
| J C Oand, Esq | G A Mackenzie, Esq |
| W S Symonds Esq | J D Mackintosh, Esq |
| W J Coleman Esq | E D King, Esq |
| J A Chipman, Esq | T W Chesley, Esq |
| R B Seaton, Esq | ——— Dixon, Esq |
| Michael Walsh, Esq | C C Chipman, Esq |
| J Parsons, Esq | Alfred Putnam, Esq |
| E J Lordly, Esq | Chas Putnam, Esq |
| W K Angwin, Esq | Wm McDougall, Esq |
| Rud Macdonald, Esq | G M Greer, Esq |
| Jamie Symonds, Esq | B Russell, Esq |
| J J Stewart, Esq | J W DeWolf, Esq |
| C R DeWolf, Esq | |

Mr. John F. Stairs, President of the Halifax Liberal-Conservative Association, occupied the chair, with Sir Charles Tupper on his right and Sir A. T. Galt on his left. Mr. T. E. Kenny occupied the Vice's chair with Mr. C. H. Tupper on his right and Mr. Sanford Fleming, C. B. on his left.

The following is the

M E N U .

POTAGES.

Green Turtle. Clear a la Royal.

POISSONS.

Boiled Fresh Salmon, Lobster Sauce.
 Filet of Haddock, a la maitre d'hotel.

ENTREES.

Petit Pattes aux huitres.
 Cottlette d'Agneau auxpetites pois.
 Sweet Breads, Larded aux Champignons.
 Timbale of Macaroni.

RELEVES.

Roast Sirloin of Beef.
 Roast Turkey, Cranberry Sauce.
 Roast Saddle of Mutton, Red Currant Jelly.
 Boiled Turkey, Oyster Sauce.
 Boiled Ham and Tongue.

ROTS.

Young Spring Chicken (Roasted).
 Prairie Hens. Wild Ducks. Grouse.
 Chicken Mayonnaise. Lobster Salade.
 Green Lettuce Salads. Tomatoes, Cucumbers, etc.

VEGETABLES.

Mashed Potatoes. New Green Peas. Asparagus.
 Spinach. Lettuce. Sweet Corn.
 Tomatoes. Squash. Turnips, etc.

*Can. Pam. Complimentary Banquet
 to Sir Charles Tupper*

ENTREMENTS.

English Plum Pudding, Wine Sauce.
Meringues a la creme.
Sandwich Pastry. Tartlets. Mince Pies.
Washington Pies. Italian Creams. Apple Tarts,
Charlotte Russe. Jelly aux Madeira.

RELEVES DE ROTIS.

Crackers. Cheese. Radishes.
Brown Bread and Vanilla Ice Creams.
Fresh Strawberries and Cream.

DESSERT.

Oranges. Apples. Grapes. Bananas.
Prunes. Figs. Raisins. Ratifier. Fingers.
Ginger Nuts. Bon-Bons. Cocoa Nut Drops.
Biscuits. Candied Fruit. French Creams.
Preserved Ginger. Preserved Peaches. Pine Apples.
Almonds. Olives. Pyramid Cakes.
Assorted Biscuits, etc.

COFFEE.

WINES.

Amonillado Sherry.
Godard Bros. sauterne.
Johanne-berger (Heck).
L. I. Extra Dry Champagne.
B. & E. Perriers "Cabinet."
Chateau Lafite Claret.
Chateau Leoville Claret.
Extra Port.
Liqueurs—Curaco, Brandy, Maraschino. Cherry
Brandy, Benedictine.

About 10.30 the chairman rose to propose the first toast of the evening, but before doing so read the following letters which had been received in response to invitations to be present :

FROM SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD.
STADACONA HALL, Ottawa.

Sir John Macdonald greatly regrets that his official engagements deprive him of the great pleasure of accepting the kind invitation of the Liberal-Conservatives of the County of Halifax and of being present at deserved compliment they are about to pay to his friend and colleague, Sir Charles Tupper, on the 14th instant.
8th June, 1883.

MDF HON. SIR HECTOR LANGEVIN.

Sir Hector Langevin regrets that in consequence of his presence being required in Ottawa next week, he will be deprived of the honor of being present at the banquet to be given by the Liberal-Conservatives of the County of Halifax, on the 14th of June, in honor of the honorable Sir Charles Tupper. Sir Hector Langevin regrets his inability the more when having to decline the invitation of the Liberal-Conservatives of Halifax on this particular occasion, as he would have wished especially to show his appreciation of the good services rendered by Sir Charles Tupper and of the talent and eloquence which have placed him in the prominent position he now holds.
Ottawa, 8th June, 1883.

FROM SIR LEONARD TILLEY.
OTTAWA, June 7, 1883.

MY DEAR SIR,—

I am just in receipt of the invitation from the "Liberal-Conservatives of the County of Halifax" to attend the dinner to be given to my esteemed colleague on the 14th. I sincerely regret that my arrangements are such, preparatory to my leaving for England on the 16th that I can not do myself the pleasure of being with you on that interesting occasion. It can not be otherwise, than one of deep interest to all present.

Yours faithfully,
S. L. TILLEY.

To John F. STAIRS, Esq.,
Chairman of Committee,
HALIFAX, N. S.

FROM HON. J. A. CHAPLEAU.

(Telegram.)

Please accept my thanks for your invitation to attend the banquet offered to your great patriot Sir Charles Tupper, and my deep regret at being prevented from doing in this manifestation of esteem and affection for one whom Canada has such great reason to be proud of. Your faithful support gave him strength; his name gives you glory. Honor to you for having honored him.
(Sgd.) J. A. CHAPLEAU.

The chairman stated that similar letters had been received from Hon. Mr. McPherson, Sir Alexander Campbell and other members of the cabinet.

The chairman then gave the following toasts which were duly honored :—

- "The Queen."
- "The Prince and Princess of Wales, the Princess Louise and other members of the Royal Family."
- "The Governor-General."
- "The Lieut.-Governor."

Mr. Stairs then said it became his duty to introduce the guest of the evening, Sir Charles Tupper. In doing so he observed that nothing he could say at all this evening could add to the interest of the present occasion, nor could any words of his present the services that had been rendered by Sir Charles Tupper to the Province of Nova Scotia and Dominion of Canada more prominently before this assembly than they were at present. At this late hour of the evening, much as he would have liked to do so at an earlier hour, he did not feel that it would be right to take up the time in referring particularly, as he would otherwise have desired to do, to some of the things which had been achieved for this city by the efforts of their honored guest. As he knew, however, that the assemblage was waiting impatiently to hear from Sir Charles he would refrain from any extended observations, but he would simply say in passing that it behoved us now to recall particularly what had been done for Halifax and Dartmouth also. A good many friends from Dartmouth were present this evening, and as he had been living in that place for some time, and was interested in its progress and prosperity, he took great pleasure in referring to what had been accomplished in the interest of the town by the efforts of their guest. He would ask the company to drink the health of Sir Charles Tupper.

The toast was drunk with great enthusiasm, and Sir Charles on rising to respond was for some minutes prevented from speaking by continued rounds of applause.

He spoke as follows :—

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice, and gentlemen, No words that I can command would enable me adequately to express the deep emotion excited by the grand banquet and

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ovation which you have tendered me on the present occasion. I find myself surrounded by members of the Senate of Canada, by a number of the leading representatives in the House of Commons of Canada, by a number of gentlemen who adorn the Legislative Council of the Province of Nova Scotia, and by several gentlemen who are ornaments of the Legislative Assembly of this Province. But in addition to that I find myself in the presence of the merchant princes of Halifax. I find myself in the presence of the representatives of the great industries that now adorn your city. I find myself in the presence of the representatives of the great fishing interests of the Province. I find myself in the presence of the great agricultural interests of the Province. I find myself in the presence of gentlemen who by their energy and enterprise have shown the world that Halifax is not to be behind in taking advantage of the present fiscal policy of the Dominion of Canada and rearing up great industries that are to benefit your people. (Cheers.) I find myself in the presence, of those who have taken a prominent and leading part in rendering the city of Halifax what it ought to be, not only the great West India port of this country, but the seat of the great sugar refining industry of Canada, which in connection with the great cotton industry which you have established here and the other industries which are prosecuted with such vigor and enterprise, are of vital importance to the progress and prosperity of the country. I find myself surrounded by gentlemen who, by their energy and enterprise, by their readiness to devote their capital to this purpose are prepared to make Halifax and Nova Scotia what they should be—one of the most important centres of the commerce and industries of this Dominion. Under these circumstances, no language I can use would adequately express what I feel when you have taken so much trouble, on this occasion, to greet me with so splendid an ovation as the present. And, sir, I must not forget, while regretting that it has not been in the power of my colleagues to accept your kind hospitality, I must not forget to express the gratification which I feel in finding my old friend, Sir A. T. Galt, my distinguished predecessor in the high office that I have the honor to hold—that of High Commissioner in London, coming down here at great personal inconvenience to do me honor on this occasion. All I can say is that on a somewhat similar occasion not very long ago it gave me great pleasure in the city of Montreal to represent the Government of which I am a member when a large body of the citizens of that great commercial centre met to do honor to Sir A. T. Galt when about to assume the important position of High Commissioner in

London. On the present occasion I do not intend to make a political speech. The last time I had the honor of addressing a Halifax audience I think I trespassed greatly upon your patience with a speech of four hours duration extending into the morning, on the great political questions of the day. But I hope you will allow me this time to make a few observations of a somewhat personal character, rather than to refer to those great political questions in which we are all interested and with which you are all familiar. I am carried back by this grand banquet which you have tendered me, to my first entry in Halifax in a political character. More than twenty-eight years ago when engaged in the duties of a large and lucrative practice in my profession in my native county, my hon. friend who now sits by my side, the Hon. Senator McFarlane and his colleague, Sen. Dickie came into my study with a request that I would stand for my county. They said that a writ had been issued for a general election (the election of 1855) and that if we wished to carry the county against the great head of the great Liberal party of that day, the late lamented Hon. Joseph Howe, it was necessary that I should come forward as one of the candidates for the representation of the county, which then had two representatives. My objection, of course, was very great. I knew to how uncertain a sea I was about to commit myself, and how seriously it was likely to interfere with my own personal advancement. When they said, however, that unless I would consent to offer my services the election would be carried by default and that no effort would be made, and that it was not believed that under any other circumstance the county could be carried, I was compelled reluctantly to consent. It was not because I took a very deep interest in politics. The question was with me a personal question. I was a personal and intimate friend of one of the greatest and best men I have ever known, the late Hon. Judge Johnston, (cheers) and my desire to sustain him was the motive which induced me to consent to become a candidate. The result of course, you know. My hon. colleague and myself were elected as representatives in the Conservative interest of the County of Cumberland. My opponent, Mr. Howe, on his return to Halifax was greeted with a good many inquiries as to who this young doctor was who had taken his seat from him in the County of Cumberland, and with his characteristic frankness and his disposition to do more than justice to an opponent, he told them that they would soon find out that he had been defeated by the leader of the Conservative party. When the party assembled, my hon. colleague and myself were summoned to meet our friends who had been elected, and it was not a very large number that came to the

Howe

who?

front when the fight was over. We met in a lodging house, close by where the late Mr. Thorne was lodging. In those lodgings we met, and, all told, out of some fifty-two members that composed the House of Assembly, we counted sixteen. The party had been cut to pieces and the only redeeming feature about the situation, if such it might be called,—a great many people called it anything else but a redeeming feature—was the return of my hon. colleague and myself for the county of Cumberland and the defeat of the great leader of the great Liberal party. Well, sir, on that occasion, as I believe is usual on such occasions, the different members from various sections of the country endeavored to account as best they could for the disaster that had overtaken the party. When they had told their experience my hon. friend Judge Johnstone called upon me to give my opinion. I ventured with the presumption of youth to tell them that they were exactly in the position in which any party that had pursued the course which they had pursued might expect to find itself. I said that I believed the defeat of the Conservative party in the Province was owing to the fact that they were wrong in principle and that the practice that they had pursued was fatal to the success of the party. I said, you have unfortunately adopted a policy that renders it impossible for a Roman Catholic to be a Conservative. If you aim at controlling the Government of this country you must reform, and at once, that radical error into which you have fallen, and must adopt the broad and statesmanlike policy that men must stand on a common platform in politics utterly regardless of the religions faith which they profess. (Cheers.) I ventured to tell them that I differed from them on another great and fundamental question and that was the railway policy. I ventured to tell them that I believed that the policy propounded by Mr. Howe was a true and sound policy—that of constructing railways by the Government in the position in which they were placed—and that it was absolutely necessary to change front in relation to that question also. A good many of my friends on that occasion who knew that Mr. Johnstone, with all his amiable qualities, had pretty strong opinions of his own, expected some explosion from the remarks which I had ventured to make. They were a great deal astonished when that venerable gentleman told them he was afraid there was too much truth in what Dr. Tupper had said. He added that it was too late in life for him, he was too old to change himself, and he said he thought the best thing they could do to give carte blanche to Dr. Tupper. Let him reconstruct the Conservative party, and try his hand and see what he could do with it. (Cheers.) From that hour to this—from

that hour, before I had ever taken a seat in the Legislature of the Province, I have had the honor to be the leader of the Conservative party of Nova Scotia. The Legislature met, and I placed myself in communication with the members. I arranged an onslaught upon our opponents, and at the close of a heated and vigorous debate which I had the honor to lead, we divided, not with sixteen but with twenty-two, on our side, and among those twenty-two gentlemen who voted with me was the brother of the late Bishop of Arichat who resigned his seat in the Government and voted with me. Another gentleman was Mr. McKeagney, the late lamented gentleman who died a judge in Winnipeg. Another who did not vote with me but whose letter from his dying bed was read in the House, was Mr. McLeod, a Roman Catholic member who tendered his resignation and declared that if he were able to tender his vote it should be with me. I need not tell you that this produced a new coalition of things. I need not tell you that when the Legislature met in the ensuing session, Judge Johnstone made a motion of want of confidence which was carried, and the Conservative party combined with our former opponent, but then allies, the Roman Catholic members to a very large extent in this Province, were placed in power, and a government was formed. When that event took place my friend then Mr. Johnstone, asked me to accept the high and important office of Provincial Secretary. I told him that it would not answer my purpose, that the only object I had in entering the Legislature at all was to see him restored to power, and that object accomplished I should only be too glad to be relieved from any kind of official duty, and enabled to devote my time and attention to the profession in which I was engaged. His reply was that if I refused to accept the office of Provincial Secretary he would not attempt to form an administration; and under these circumstances I abandoned my professional position in the County of Cumberland, committed myself to the uncertain sea of politics and took office as Provincial Secretary of this province. I need not tell you that I am not a very idle man, and the administration of which I form a part generally find some work to do. The burning question of that day, a burning question in a double sense, was the coal question. It was a fact that at that day no Nova Scotian could dig a pound of coal on his property, no person except a close corporation in London could touch a pound of coal in the wide domain of Nova Scotia. The question had excited a good deal of interest not only in this province but elsewhere. Judge Johnstone was the Solicitor of the General Mining Association, and had been their defender down to that period. He resigned that

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office and we brought forward resolutions to provide for a delegation to deal with this matter, and with my own hand I addressed a letter to the present Governor Archibald, then one of the leading men, as he has long been one of the leading men of this province, (cheers) asking him to join in this great and important mission with Mr. Johnstone as a delegate to deal with that question of the mines and minerals of this province. You know the result. They were enabled to make an arrangement which was carried successfully through the Legislature in the session of 1858; and in consequence of that arrangement you know the vigor and vitality that were thrown into the development of the mines and minerals of this province, and the inestimable boon conferred upon the people of Nova Scotia by the settlement of that question. Another great reform seemed to demand attention at the hands of the Legislature, and we unhesitatingly and fearlessly grappled with it, because I have no hesitation in telling you that never as a public man, whether I was right or wrong—I hope that I was generally right, perhaps I was sometimes wrong—but whenever I came to a conclusion since I have entered public life, that a reform was needed, that a change was required, I addressed myself to the work unhesitatingly without reference to the consequence, and without inquiring what might be the result to myself or my party. I fearlessly and faithfully to the best of my knowledge and ability grappled with the question. At that time the representation of this province was of the most anomalous character. The small county of Hants returned five representatives, between county and township representatives, while the great county of Cape Breton, of nearly double the population, returned only two members to the Legislature of the province. It was utterly impossible that any thing like responsible government—anything like a fair manly independent expression of the public opinion of this country could be given when the representation was in that condition,—when a handful of a little over a hundred electors in a small township could return a member and had as potent a voice as one-half the county of Halifax or something approaching that. We turned our attention to that subject and brought in a representation bill which was greatly denounced by our opponents, and, I dare say, some who are present will not have forgotten the diagram showing the monstrous manner in which we were cutting up districts and altering the boundaries of the various counties of this Province. Yet I am proud to know that the settlement of the boundaries of the various districts throughout the Province of Nova Scotia stands to-day as we fixed it in 1858, and that although our opponents have had uncontrolled power to change those boundaries, they have not questioned

the fairness, justice and wisdom of that measure which we placed upon the statute book. I am not quite certain that it was as beneficial to us as it was to the country. I am not quite certain but that we should have remained in power but for the passage of that measure. But after having passed it we went to the country, and in the general election we came out in something like two of a minority. Want of confidence in our Administration was carried and our opponents came back to power. Well, sir, I met my fate on that occasion as becomes those who commit themselves to the uncertainties of politics, with all the philosophy I could command. The next morning I tendered my professional services to the people of Halifax, only too glad to be able to return to my profession again. And when I look around this festive board and see so many friends to whom I owe so much for the many and independent assistance which they afforded me, I shall never forget how on that occasion they rallied to my support. I was soon placed in as independent a position as I ever was in, in my life. (Cheers). I can not make you understand—no person who has not devoted himself as I have done to the profession to which I have the honor to belong—can understand, the severe wrench it gives to a man, treated as I was by the professional men, by my professional brethren without distinction, from one end of the county to the other,—the severe wrench I say, to sever such a connection as that. If possible it is a stronger one than that which connects a public man with the great body of political supporters to whom he owes so much. While in the discharge of my professional duties, I was not altogether idle as a politician, and during the four years we were out of power we made it tolerably hot for our opponents in the country and parliament. The result was that when it came to the general election of 1863 we swept the country from end to end. My friend, Mr. Johnstone, and myself, and my colleague by my side (Senator McFarlane) came back to power sustained by twenty-five or a majority in a House of fifty-five members, which, I think, you will admit, was quite large enough, and perhaps a little too large. I felt, however, that the country having placed us in that position, demanded something at our hands, and I felt that nothing would be more discreditable to a government than to hesitate to deal with such questions as they felt they were enabled to deal with by the great majority with which they had been returned to power. I may say however that when we met in an adjoining building, which I then occupied as a private residence, to form an administration, my friend, Mr. Johnstone with his characteristic magnanimity refused in the most peremptory manner to become leader of the administration. He stated that from the hour I entered public life,—from that time the heat and burden of the day had been borne by myself. That although he would be most happy to co-operate with me in every possible way, at his time of life it was utterly impossible to undertake to discharge the duties such as I had performed, and he would not consent to become the leader of the Administration, when the success of the

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party, as he stated, was entirely due to myself. My reply was that unless he would accept the position of Prime Minister and form an Administration, I would have nothing to do with it, and would not even become a member of any government. Under these circumstances he was of course compelled to adopt that course, and you all know that during the first session of that legislature I brought forward an Equity Judge Bill,—a bill which changed the constitution of our courts by providing an Equity Judge. That measure, like our Representation measure, was denounced by our opponents as personal legislation, and was regarded as an improper act. It was said that no matter of how high a standing and character any gentleman might be no legislation should be adopted for the purpose of giving him a judicial position. I endeavored to sustain that measure in the best way I could, and it is no little source of pride and gratification for me to know that although the constitution and re-organization of the courts and the administration of justice rests with the Local Legislature, and although our opponents have been in office and have had uncontrolled power in office for many years since, that Equity bill stands to-day. And not only has it remained as a feature of the constitution of our courts in this country but it has been copied in the Province of New Brunswick. With the confidence of men of all classes and all parties Judge Johnstone took that elevated position, and down to the time when his failing health appeared to render it necessary for him to retire, no man of any consideration in the politics of this country felt that other than the best service had been performed to the country, when he was elevated to that high and distinguished position. (Cheers).

The next question that seemed to demand at the hands of the government to be promptly and vigorously dealt with was the question of education. The condition of education in this Province was not such as to be looked upon with pride and satisfaction by any lover of his country. We looked abroad at Canada, then united Canada, where my hon. and distinguished friend, Sir A. T. Galt has played so important a part, and we found that our educational system was one that was utterly inferior, and that if the Province of Nova Scotia was to hold its place in the intellectual race and maintain its proper position as a portion of British North America, it was absolutely necessary to reform the legislation in reference to the question of education. I brought forward on that occasion as you all know a measure which I was told by my friends—and my foes did not disagree to it, would prove my political death knell. And although many regarded the movement with favor, still it was felt that to adopt a free school system in this country, and to support the schools by direct taxation in a country where direct taxation had been hitherto unknown, would be the death knell of any administration that consented to such a course. I was not dismayed. I frankly confess to you that when I brought forward that measure and submitted it to the Legislature, I had no doubt whatever that at the first opportunity that the people obtained,

I, and the administration of which I formed a part, would be dismissed from power. But I believed that the measure submitted was worth more than the administration,—was worth more than the Conservative party in this country, and that the time would come, and that at no distant day, when, however unpopular at the outset, it would be accepted as one of the greatest measures to advance the prosperity and progress of this Province that had ever been submitted to the Legislature, and I left the result to the sober reflection of the country upon this measure which I found it my duty to bring forward. That Act was placed upon the statute book, and I am proud to know that never was a measure placed upon the statute book, improved as it was in the subsequent session, that gave greater satisfaction to the overwhelming mass of the people of this country. Never was a measure passed by any Legislature that received higher eulogium than that educational measure upon which we staked our existence and which we carried. (Cheers.)

Then came the great question of Confederation. I had concerted a measure for the union of the Maritime Provinces. I had felt at the outset how important it was that the provinces of which British North America was composed, should form a united whole. I was invited in 1860, when in Opposition, to lecture before the Mechanics' Institute in St. John, and I chose for my subject the political condition of British North America. On that occasion I pointed out what appeared to me the glaring defects which existed in our position and I proposed for these provinces a Federal Union such as now exists. I pointed this out as being the only feasible and practicable plan of removing these defects and difficulties and placing the government of this country upon a proper foundation. I did not believe then that the time had come when it was possible to adopt such a measure. I believed that there were difficulties lying in the way that would render such a Confederation impossible for some time to come, but I believed that one of the best steps towards it would be the union of the Maritime Provinces; and I concerted with the governments of Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick the passage of a joint resolution for a conference at Charlottetown in relation to that question. Well, the politics of Canada, as my hon. friend Sir A. T. Galt well knows—and no person is better acquainted with the matter, for he was a prime mover in 1858—presented very great and serious difficulties, and Sir J. A. Macdougall brought forward and propounded in that Parliament the project of a confederate union of all these Provinces, to have all the different Provinces of British North America united together. Taking advantage of the conference which we had called at Charlottetown, these gentlemen sailed down upon us, and one fine morning they came in upon our conference and asked us if we would allow them to present a broader scheme than that which engaged our attention. I need not tell you that when a gentleman of the great ability and plausibility of my hon. friend Sir A. T. Galt has an opportunity to state a case, he states it in such a manner as to make it ex-

of which I formed from power. But re submitted was ministration,—was ervative party in me would come, when, however ould be accepted ures to advance of this Province to the Legisla o the sober re- on this measure bring forward, he statute book, at never was a atute book, im- sequent session, ction to the people of this measure passed received higher ional measure existence and

tion of Con- a measure for vices. I had ortant it was British North ould form a in 1860, when he M. Chamies' chose for my of British occasion I re the glaring ur position es a Federal pointed this and practi- defects and ument of ndation I e time had ept such a ere diffi- ould render for some one of the e union of e Edward e passage of conference to that f Canada, ell knows ted with ne mover d serious d brought rliament all these vices of together. e which e gene- one fine nference to pre- which ell you ability A. T. ase, he it ex-

tremely attractive, and when we had heard Sir John A. Macdonald, the late Hon. George Brown, Sir George Cartier, and Sir A. T. Galt, we came to the conclusion that it was our duty, as public men, to give the fullest and fairest consideration to the great question, not merely of the union of the Maritime Provinces, but of a united British North America. Then we adjourned the conference and came away, and I think it was in this room that I had the honor to receive these gentlemen as our guests. It was in this room that the Hon. George Brown made that able and exhaustive speech, which is not forgotten to this day, in favor of a confederate union of the Provinces. It was in this room that my hon. friend Sir A. T. Galt dealing with the great financial questions connected with that great measure attracted and riveted the attention of all hearers, and led us one and all to believe that the time had come and was propitious to giving the fairest and fullest consideration to that measure. You are as familiar with the various steps in the progress of that question as I am myself. You know that we went to Quebec and after some three or four weeks of careful deliberation propounded a scheme for the union of British North America which substantially is the constitution of the country to-day. It is true it received some modification at a subsequent period at a conference at Westminster Palace Hotel in London, but the constitution of the country to-day is substantially that which, after three or four weeks of deliberation, the public men of the various provinces of this country devised at the then seat of the government of Canada, in the old historic city of Quebec. I need not weary you or detain you to-night by referring to the long and arduous struggle we had with that measure,—the hostility with which it was met, and the difficulties I encountered on coming back here, and the impossibility of carrying the measure either in the Province of New Brunswick or Nova Scotia. But I may say this that such were the inherent merits of the scheme that the longer the cool, dispassionate, solid men of the country looked at it, the better they were prepared to enter in it, and at no distant period, in 1866, the measure was carried by a two-thirds vote of the House of Assembly and a two-thirds vote of the Legislative Council, after the conference in London matured and agreed upon a scheme. I will not detain you by referring to the fact that we were not unmindful of the material progress of the province in the meantime. In the first speech which I ever made on the floor of the House of Assembly I committed myself, and so far as I was able the party with which I was connected, to the policy propounded by the late Mr. Howe of carrying out the construction of the railways of this Province as government works, and on every occasion, whether as a delegate in England or in the Legislature of this country, I advocated the pushing of that work to a conclusion. When the Government, of which I was a member, was called to power, I think there were nine miles of railway in operation in Nova Scotia, from here to Bedford. Before I resigned the position of leader of the Government in 1867 I had carried the railroad to the Gulf of St. Lawrence

on the one hand, and had provision made for its extension to the waters of the Bay of Fundy at Annapolis on the other. Under the Confederation arrangement we had further provided for the extension of the line to the adjoining Province of New Brunswick connecting us with the rest of Canada and the United States of America. As I stated before, we addressed ourselves vigorously and emphatically to that which I believe was absolutely demanded in the best interests of this country. It has been said at times that I made a mistake in not obtaining the services of that great and eloquent man,—the most eloquent Nova Scotian that ever adorned our Province,—the late Joseph Howe. (Cheers.) I am able to relieve myself of criticism upon that point by stating that he was the first man whose assistance I sought. Although he had been defeated, and was not then in the Legislature of his country, I recognized him as a great leader, a man of great ability, whatever position he might occupy, and as such I invited him frankly to come in with us and join hands, as had been done by the statesmen of the older Province of Canada, in relation to that great measure. Unfortunately, I believe for Nova Scotia, Mr. Howe did not concur in the scheme we had propounded and the views we had adopted, and, as you know, when he differed he differed with his whole might. And he became the great leader of the great and powerful party—too great and powerful for us to cope with for a good while—in the Province of Nova Scotia. I had the good fortune, however, to secure the able and ready co-operation of my friend and old political opponent, the leader of the Opposition in the Province of Nova Scotia, the present Lieutenant-Governor, Hon. Mr. Archibald. (Cheers.) From the hour that he joined hands with me, and came to the conclusion, in common with myself, that the common interest of the country demanded that we should unite in endeavoring to promote the welfare of the country—from that hour he was my steady, unwavering, uncompromising supporter. I am glad to be able to bear testimony, not only to the ability and zeal with which he labored in conjunction with the late Judge McCully, but I am happy also to bear evidence to the fact that in the high position of the Governorship of this country,—a position that he now fills and has filled with great acceptance, he has discharged with most signal ability and fairness the duties of a constitutional Governor. (Cheers.) As I said before we met with a check in the measure of confederation, but were at last enabled by the changed opinion of the members of the House to carry the measure, and I am glad to be able to stand here and feel that notwithstanding all the opposition that was encountered, the time came when even Mr. Howe felt that it was his duty as a statesman and patriot to change the attitude which he had assumed, and take hold of a measure to assist in working out the constitution in the interests of our common country. It has been said that the seductive powers which I exercised were too much for that eminent man, and that on the occasion of my visit to London he was induced to desert the party to which he had committed himself. I have no hesitation in saying to you in all candor that a more unfounded statement was

never made. The Hon. Sir A. T. Galt declined to go to England on the ground that the antagonism between Mr. Howe and myself would be fatal to the accomplishment of any good. The Legislature of Nova Scotia had sent a delegation with Mr. Howe at its head for the purpose of endeavoring to break up the Union. I need not remind you that when I went over in 1866 Mr. Howe addressed a pamphlet of such signal ability to every member of the House of Commons and the House of Lords as to excite great alarm on the part of the friends of Confederation. Lord Carnarvon sent for me and told me of the great impression produced by the pamphlet and asked me to address myself at once to giving it an answer. I did so to the best of my ability, and I am happy to say that it relieved a good deal of the anxiety that had been felt in consequence of Mr. Howe's publication. When in 1868 he was sent back to London to get a royal commission to inquire into the working of Confederation with a view to breaking up the Union if he could, I was delegated by the government of Canada to go there for the purpose of giving information to the Imperial Government, and in so far as possible to prevent any damage being inflicted upon the interests of the Union by Mr. Howe. The first thing I did on my arrival was to leave my card for the Hon. Joseph Howe. The next morning he walked into my parlor at the Westminster Palace Hotel and greeted me with the remark that he could not say he was glad to see me, but said he "you are here, and I suppose we must make the best of it." We sat down and discussed the question as it was worthy of being discussed by two men representing conscientiously what they believed to be the best interests of the country, but holding diametrically opposite views of the situation. I can say that if every word said between us on that, or on any other occasion, was published in to-morrow morning's newspapers, you would not find a word reflecting upon the honor, character, or integrity of the Hon. Joseph Howe or myself. (Great cheering.) He felt, as no man could fail to feel, the momentous importance of the occasion. I said to him at once, "You have come here on a mission with a view of obstructing Confederation, and I know too well that you will do all that man can do to accomplish the object for which you are sent here. But I said you will be defeated. An overwhelming majority of the Commons, and a still larger majority of the Lords, will repudiate your proposal. You will be defeated, and nothing will be accomplished by your mission. The time will come when you will have to face the question what policy you are going to pursue that is not going to be fatal to the Province of Nova Scotia in which you feel so strong an interest. And when that time comes you will find that the conviction will force itself upon you that the only thing you can do, entrusted with the confidence of the people of Nova Scotia as you have been, will be to devote your great talents in assisting to work out a scheme that will exist in spite of you, and to work it out in a way that will be most beneficial to Nova Scotia,—or if you prefer to say it,—in a way that will be least injurious to the people of your country. When

that time comes, as come it will, and when you give your great talents to assist the government of this country representing as you do a great majority of the people of Nova Scotia; for you will remember that after a hard and bitter struggle I succeeded in getting back to Parliament without one supporter on the right or left, and a united phalanx supporting Mr. Howe—under these circumstances said I with the extreme responsibility which the confidence of the country has thrust upon you, every hour's reflection will force you to the conclusion that there is no course open to you but to come forward with the weight of power and influence of the united representation of the Province of Nova Scotia, to assist in working out these institutions in such a way as to make the best of them." I knew the man; I knew his patriotic sentiments. I knew him too well not to know that when the time came when it was clear that his hostility would do nothing but injure his country, he would sacrifice himself, if need be, rather than do anything to prejudice the interests of the Province. (Cheers.) A paper that ought to be a very high authority has recently declared that I am a very mercenary politician; that I am carried away by an insane ambition to secure position for myself, and worst of all money for myself. I do not think my past history warrants that statement. When I first entered public life I sacrificed as independent a position as any man in Nova Scotia could desire to hold. I had a profession of which I was proud, and a large and lucrative practice. I had every comfort that my interests and those of my family required, but I did not hesitate when I felt it was for the good of my country to forego all that and to commit myself as I have already said, to the uncertain sea of politics. Again, when Confederation was carried, as you all know, I had an official and professional income greater than the amount then enjoyed by the Premier of Canada. So far as mercenary considerations were concerned, I would have looked to my own interests by refusing to enter public life. When the first Administration of Canada was formed by Sir John A. Macdonald, my hon. friend beside me knows what difficulties had to be encountered in the formation of that Government. These difficulties were solved by myself. It was not a Conservative Administration. It was a combination of the two great political parties, and I said to Sir John Macdonald the solution of your difficulties is for me to withdraw any claim to the position you have offered me, and to ask my hon. friend D'Arcy Mc Kee to do the same, and I will make room for an Irish Roman Catholic of this Province. Mr. Kenny, now Sir Edward, took my place, and I do not think that action stamped me as a very mercenary or an over-ambitious politician. I was only too proud to be able to solve the difficulty in that way, and to go back and fight single-handed for my county, content if I could obtain an honorable position as a representative of my county in the Parliament of United Canada, there to assist these gentlemen in working out the constitution and carrying forward the great measures devised in the interests of the country.

Well gentlemen, when Mr. Archibald was defeated who was then Secretary of State, and Mr. Kenny was left without a colleague, my hon. friend Sir Alexander knows that I was in a position being the leader of a party, a very consolidated party at that time, a party of one,—that I was quite entitled to become a colleague of Mr. Kenny at the Council Board. But I believed there was a greater and more important service that I could render to the Union, and I asked Sir John A. Macdonald to retain the vacancy thus made by the resignation of Mr. Archibald as Secretary of State until the men whom Nova Scotia had elected and given her confidence to, should select a man to fill the position. I told Mr. Howe that when the hour should come in which he would feel compelled as I felt assured the hour would come in which he would feel compelled to give his services to the assistance of the government, he would find me just as devoted a supporter as he had found me a vigorous opponent. I said I would be content to remain in private life for ever if the result would be to obtain peace and satisfaction in our country and to unite all parties in working out this great question of the confederation of Canada. As you know, the time did come when Mr. Howe accepted the position of President of the Council, and came to the county of Hants for reelection, and there is nothing in my public life of which I feel prouder in looking back over a long retrospect of twenty eight years than when nine hundred of the stalwart Conservative yeomanry of that county who had spent their lives in opposing Joseph Howe went up to poll their votes in his support as President of the Council. (Cheers.) And I may say more,—because you see that I am in a communicative mood to-night and disposed to let you into the secrets of the past. I went to see Mr. Howe the day before the election, when he was shattered by severe illness and dismayed by the hostility of very many old friends. I found him very much broken and apprehensive of the result. I said, "Mr. Howe, you are mistaken. you are not going to be defeated; you are going to be elected. But I tell you this: Suppose you should be defeated don't do anything rash. Do not resign. I have arranged with my old colleague, Mr. MacFarlane, that if you are defeated in the county of Hants I will resign my seat the next day and you shall be returned for Cumberland by acclamation." (Cheers.) He said, "of course that is impossible, I could not do that." I said, "you can, because I will tell you what I will do. Mr. Penco is an much alone in the Local House as I am in the House of Commons of Canada. He will resign and I will go back into the Local House, and see if I cannot straighten matters out there a little." (Cheers.) I think you will agree with me that Mr. Howe could have had no more faithful supporter than I was on that occasion. The time came eventually when the appointment of Sir Edward Kenny as Administrator of the government, made a vacancy again in the cabinet, and I was invited to become the colleague of Joseph Howe. And I will say this, having sat at

that Council Board, that although we had differed strongly in former years, no two men ever acted with more hearty, cordial, and friendly co-operation in everything designed to promote the welfare and prosperity of the country than Mr. Howe and myself. When a vacancy afterwards occurred in the office of Lieutenant Governor Mr. Howe was feeble and broken in health. I had an impression that he had long looked upon the highest object of his ambition as being the Lieutenant Governor of this Province. When Sir John asked me what was to be done in respect to this office, I said "I am going to ask you to tender that office to the Hon. Joseph Howe. I am in hopes that the air of his native Province will restore his health which is a good deal shattered, as you know, and I believe it will be gratifying to himself." My colleagues were only too happy to adopt the suggestion, and no one lamented more deeply than I did the brief tenure that he enjoyed of that elevated and dignified position. Upon the death of Mr. Howe the office was tendered to Judge Johnstone who had then retired from the Bench, and was in the south of England for his health, we would then have had in this country the remarkable occurrence of having two Lieutenant Governors in succession who had been for twenty years in the bitterest possible antagonism; and I claim that as one of the results of the union of the provinces. It is with no small measure of pride and gratification that I refer to the past, that having gone forward in relation to these great questions with all the vigor and ability that God has given me, faithfully fearlessly and energetically, carrying out what I believed the best interests of the country demanded, it is with no little pride and gratification that I refer to the fact that almost every man who occupied a prominent position in the great Liberal party of Nova Scotia in this province, almost every man has become my political and personal friend. The hon. William Annand now, now in London, is, I think, the solitary exception, and I believe that a very friendly feeling exists between us at the present moment. As I have said, with reference to the others, the time came when every man of mark, every leading man of the Liberal party was in perfect accord of opinion with myself. It is no small source of pleasure, and it is one of the evidences of the effect of what Confederation has done for this country in elevating us out of that small groove, that narrow and bitter antagonism which formerly prevailed. I spoke a moment ago of the Conservative party and of my having been the leader of the Conservative party. I was mistaken. From that hour when the public men of this country joined hands on that great question and were found upon the same side, it became the great Liberal Conservative party, and it is the Liberal-Conservative party to-day, because, while Conservative in the highest and best sense of the word, and especially in that most important of all senses, of maintaining in an undeviating and unflinching manner the connection between these Provinces and the British Crown, (Cheers.) there is no measure of reform, nothing for the extension of popular control no measure to give scope and field to the various populations now flow-

ing in the country, no measure that the best interests of the masses demand at the hands of the government, that this Liberal-Conservative party have not grappled with and carried to a successful issue. So completely have they carried out every practicable reform, that my hon. friend Mr. Blake, after having gone into Mr. Mackenzie's government, retired, because he did not propose to belong to a reform government that could find nothing to reform. (Cheers and laughter.) It was not Mr. Mackenzie's fault; it was his misfortune. The reforms had all been made. He would have been only too happy to find some reform to deal with. Mr. Blake afterwards went back into the government, but down to this time he has never succeeded in discovering any practical and practicable reform that he could invite Parliament to deal with and carry to a successful conclusion. I may therefore claim that the Liberal-Conservative party embodies not only the rank and file of the Conservative party, but the best, and most independent and intelligent men from the ranks of our opponents, spread widely over this country.

You are aware that I held the position for some time of Minister of Inland Revenue. I was first President of the Council then Minister of Inland Revenue. I left my mark there. Some of you I dare say have heard of a weights and measures law which was not a very popular measure. I had the honor of taking that down and getting parliament to place it on the statute book, and I have the proud satisfaction to know that there never was a measure placed on the statute book that was more imperatively demanded in the interests of the masses of the country than that measure for the regulation of weights and measures. It has resulted in the poor man all over this country obtaining justice in the transactions between man and man that could have been attained by no other measure, and although it encountered no little unpopularity when first enacted, the more carefully and wisely it is considered the more useful and valuable it is felt to be, and although after it was placed on the statute book our opponents looked at it and criticized it a good deal they never ventured to take it off the statute book. I was then Minister of Customs as you are aware and I have the gratification of knowing that while Minister of Customs, I submitted to parliament and had placed upon the statute book a Maine law covering a wider range of country than any law of the kind that ever was enacted before or perhaps ever will be again so long as grass grows and water runs. I applied a prohibitory liquor law to the whole North-West Territories, and so successful was that measure that when it was decided to take a section of the North West Territories in the Province of Manitoba to which the prohibitory liquor law did not apply, the people objected unless a provision was incorporated for maintaining that law. I give you that as an evidence of the popularity of the measure.

Then, as you know, one fine afternoon in '73 we came to grief. I do not intend to detain you very long with that subject because it is not a pleasing one by any means. We fell in a good cause, whether the means adopted to work out that cause

were perfectly unexceptionable I will not stop to discuss. But our object was, having acquired the North-West Territories and British Columbia, and having united the whole of British America, to make it a real and practical union as well as a union on paper. The only way was by the construction of the most gigantic work that ever four millions of people undertook. I am safe in saying that. We did undertake it and it proved a little too much for us. It was something like a vessel that was sailing up Boston Bay on one occasion. It was seen to be yawing about and flying in the wind, and the captain of a steamer that was passing thought there must be a mutiny on board. He bore down and hailed her with a speaking trumpet when the usual salutation passed. Ship ahoy, where are you bound? who owns you. When the question came who commands you? The captain replied: "Well I undertook her, but, by jove, she is too much for me." (Laughter.) We undertook to construct the Pacific Railway, but it proved a little too much for us, and we fell in the undertaking. The country was greatly excited and our opponents came into power with one of the most overwhelming majorities ever witnessed in this country. On that occasion a great many people who jump at conclusions came to the conclusion that Sir John A. Macdonald had fallen, never to rise again. I may say that was a sentiment of which he himself largely partook. He stated to me his belief that it was absolutely necessary in the interests of the great Liberal-Conservative party that it should be reconstructed under a new leader. Now the "Globe" says I am a wildly ambitious man and a mercenary politician. I was not so wildly ambitious as to further, as I might naturally have been expected to do, the determination of Sir John A. Macdonald to retire. But he had operated upon me very much as old Judge Johnston had done. He had magnetized me, and made me feel that there was a stronger than political,—a personal interest in the man, and that personal magnetism was the great power that interested and controlled me. I told him that if he refused to be the leader of the Liberal-Conservative party, I would refuse to have anything to do with it, and would abandon the whole thing. Having taken that stand on that occasion, and Sir John having most reluctantly consented to remain at the head of the party, I went to work, and I dare say you know through the columns of the press that I was not particularly idle. I went back to my profession in Ottawa and subsequently in Toronto, but while attending to my profession as well as I could, I found opportunity to go hither and thither on very important missions dealing with constituencies. North Renfrew was opened, and Mr. Mackenzie was to have meetings. The people telegraphed to me to ask if I would meet him. After a three days' duel, and a very pleasant duel, although the blows were struck from the shoulder as I dare say you know I am accustomed to strike, our man was returned,—Peter White. The constituency of Toronto which had been carried by a majority of five hundred by Judge Moss, was, on his elevation to the Bench, thrown open, and I was invited

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to go there and although I had not the pleasure to meet my opponent, because Mr. Blake did not respond to the invitation to discuss matters face to face on a platform in Toronto, the result was that Mr. Robinson was elected by a large majority. I was away down at Harvard College, where my son who sits at this table to-night had met with an accident and had a leg broken. I went down to bring him home when a telegram came that my presence was called for to meet members of the Administration who were canvassing South Ontario against the Hon. Mr. Gibbs. I got my patient shipped as carefully as I could on board a steamer and took my back tracks, and at the end of the battle we were victorious. I paid a little visit to Digby, as I dare say you all know, on a somewhat similar occasion, and we also got a supporter there. I believe I also paid a visit to the city of Halifax, and although we did not succeed in ousting Mr. Jones from the seat, I believe we secured his majority from about a thousand to some two hundred, and it was a moral victory although not an actual one, and it gave the keynote to enable us to go to the people a few months afterwards and carry two-thirds of the constituencies of Nova Scotia. We spent our time very agreeably during those years of opposition. Many people think it is a dreadful thing to be in the cold shades of opposition, but I never enjoyed any period more than the four years I spent in Opposition in Nova Scotia and the five years in Ottawa. There is more room in opposition, more scope for action than you have under the restraints of an administration. Sir Francis Hincks had retired from public life and Sir Leonard Tilley had taken the governorship of New Brunswick, and on my imperfect head devolved the very difficult task of dealing with the financial questions in parliament, and as I had to assume those duties under the regime of Sir Richard Cartwright as Finance Minister, you will appreciate the difficulties of the position. (Laughter) I did the best I could and we endeavoured to give as good an account of ourselves as possible. Another great question with which we had to deal in opposition was the question of the Canadian Pacific Railway. It devolved on me to discharge the duties of critic upon this question under Mr. MacKenzie's regime, and although I am proud to say that whenever he did anything that was entitled to support I gave him my hearty assistance, it did not often occur it is true but whenever his proposals were such as to commend themselves to my judgment I gave him the best support in my power. In dealing with the financial position, we propounded a scheme, and pledged ourselves that if we were returned to power we would make a radical change in the fiscal policy of the country, and I believe our opponents admit that we kept our word. We carried out our promises to the letter, perhaps a little more. We came back, as you know, by the hat of an overwhelming majority of the electors of Canada from end to end. A complete revolution had taken place in the public sentiment, and we then addressed ourselves, as best we could, to this great question. I will not discuss that question to-night. You know the result. You cannot look east, west, north

or south in the city to-day without seeing the monuments, in the growing and rising industries of the city, which prove the wisdom of the National Policy. I think I am safe in saying that no country ever prospered in so great and marvellous a degree as this country has under the policy to which I allude. I was entrusted with the important office of Minister of Public Works, and introduced a change in the management of the Intercolonial Railway, upon which I do not intend to say much, as you are all familiar with what occurred. When our government came into power in 1878 you know that the year's deficit on the Intercolonial amounted to about three quarters of a million and that the average deficit between expenditure and revenue on the Intercolonial Railway was something like half a million per annum. I am proud to be able to say that notwithstanding that the trade and business of that road have expanded beyond the expectations of the most sanguine friend of the Intercolonial railway, we have been enabled to balance the account and to show a balance last year of some nine thousand dollars on the right side of the ledger instead of half a million on the wrong side, and I have no hesitation in saying that at the close of this fiscal year we will find that we have maintained, if we have not bettered our position, although the traffic has increased to the extent of no less during the past year than \$400,000. This road has accomplished more for the country than any person ever conceived it could accomplish and it has accomplished it without anything being chargeable for the operation of the road. I have no hesitation in saying that just as I maintained when I first entered public life that it was perfectly safe for the province to construct roads although they did not pay a cent over working expenses, because the trade and business of the country would expand and give you more revenue than you would be charged for the interest on the cost, so in relation to the Intercolonial Railway, although it does not pay the country directly, no person can estimate the importance to this country of drawing together its various industries expanding and developing the business of the country as has been done through the agency of the Intercolonial Railway, and, as I have said before, without any charge for the operation of the road.

In relation to the Canadian Pacific Railway we reverted to our original policy. That was that the road should be constructed by a company, aided by a grant of land and money. We felt however that the whole project had become so completely discredited during the five years regime of our opponents that it was absolutely useless to ask any company or individual to invest a dollar in such a work,—that the first thing to do must be to proceed with it as a government work, to grapple with the most difficult and important sections of the line, and show that we intended to have it completed from end to end and steadily carried out as a Canadian railway. The result was that although our opponents were very incredulous, contending that a hundred million acres of land would do nothing, although they were utterly incredulous, we went steadily forward until

the most eminent capitalists of our own country, as well as other countries, were convinced that it was not only practicable, but that with the great North-West to be developed, it was a perfectly safe and sound undertaking; and having placed that work in that position we were enabled to arrange for the construction of that road upon terms that I have no hesitation in saying, although everything is changed now, although the progress that has been made has given enormous additional value to the lands, there is no fair-minded man.—no man who is not blinded with partisanship that does not know that one of the greatest and best things ever accomplished in the interests of Canada was the contract for the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway. (Cheers. No project ever took a more complete hold upon the public mind and sentiment than that gigantic work upon the basis upon which it is now placed. By that work the position of Canada has been changed to an extent of which it would have been impossible for any person to have dreamed four or five years ago. The position that the country has obtained, the standing abroad that it has secured, thanks to the able and eloquent manner in which our government has been represented by my hon. friend Sir Alexander Galt, the position that we occupy in the mind of the Imperial Government, and in relation to the press of the Mother Country, and in the estimation of the most intelligent people of that country is just as different to-day as could possibly be conceived from the position in which we stood a few years ago.

Now I do not intend to detain you at any length in relation to the controversies that have arisen in connection with the Canadian Pacific Railway. But I may say this that as this is the first time that a Minister of the Crown has had the opportunity of addressing a large representative assembly like this, I can hardly sit down without a passing reference to a new scandal known as the section B scandal. It would perhaps be more appropriate if I were to call it the new slander. Nothing perhaps has occurred in this country that has demonstrated more fully and completely the folly of any portion of the public press of the country outraging public opinion than the reception with which this slander has been met. Why is it that broadcast over this intelligent country, a country filled with a body of as intelligent men as are to be found in any portion of the civilized world, a country where there is as high-toned a sentiment of public morality as is to be found in any community in the civilized world, why is that charges made in this specific manner with all these details have simply amused the people? Why is it that there is little criticism and no excitement? If these charges were true, if any one of you gentlemen believed that this slander published in the columns of the Toronto "Globe" newspaper had a scintilla of truth you would not be here to-night to do me honor,—no man of you would be here. I respect you too much to believe that a single man would be sitting here doing honor to a Minister of the Crown in Canada if you believed there was the slightest shadow of truth in this vile slander. (Cheers). Why is it that this great

organ of a great political party is treated with this overwhelming unutterable contempt from one end of this country to the other? I will tell you why. It is because they have systematically outraged the common sense and intelligence of this country until they are powerless to injure anybody. I say with deep regret that a stronger illustration could not and cannot occur to prove that it is impossible for anything to be more injurious to a political party than for the time to come when the utterances of its leaders and its press are treated with disbelief and contempt. I say, sir, that the very foundation of our system is a wise and watchful, and vigorous opposition, and I say that it is only by the opposition pursuing that course that they are entitled to the respect or confidence of any person. Why is it that neither Edward Blake nor Alexander Mackenzie, nor any man in the ranks behind them, has been found to endorse during the last five years one of those lying slanders of the "Globe"? Because they know too well, Edward Blake knows too well, and Mr. Mackenzie knows too well that it would be fatal to their position as leaders of a great party, were they for a moment to commit themselves to statements they were unable to sustain; that the moment they gave a shadow of countenance to statements that they knew to be without foundation it would only bring down contempt upon their heads when they should have the strongest and most perfect case to present. Therefore they are too wise, even if they were not also too high-minded, independent and honorable, as I believe them to be, to lend the weight of their names to any of the miserable slanders that have been invented and circulated by certain sections of their party press. Now, what are the facts in reference to the so-called section B scandal? When we came into power we found that a hundred and eighty-five miles of the Thunder Bay section of the Canadian Pacific Railway were not under contract. Mr. Mackenzie had placed a hundred and twelve miles east from Red River, and a hundred and twelve miles west from Thunder Bay, under contract, and there was a gap of a hundred and eighty-five miles of difficult and impassable country lying between, and the whole money expended on the two portions under contract and in course of construction was utterly useless until this gap was filled up and completed. That was the position. Mr. Mackenzie had had surveyors for a considerable length of time on these 185 miles. Now, what was the first thing we did? We put under contract those 185 miles that were absolutely essential in order to make this expenditure worth anything at all. There were no inhabitants from one end of the line to the other,—nothing but a few Indians to be found, and the only way to reach the fertile shores of Red River, and connect us with the great North-West through Canadian territory was by the construction of this gap which we, therefore, considered to be of the most vital importance to the progress of the country. Tenders for the construction of the road came in and what did I do with them? Did I touch those tenders? No I passed them into the hands of Mr. Trudeau, my Deputy Minister, a

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man of high character and standing, and of liberal proclivities it is said. All I can say is that I have found him a man of great ability and untarnished honor, upon whose fidelity and integrity I can rely with the utmost confidence. I placed them in his hands, and in the hands of Sanford Fleming, who I am happy to see sitting at this festive board to-night, (Cheer.)—a gentleman who to-day—and I say it fearlessly and unhesitatingly who to-day enjoys the unqualified confidence of the Government of Canada, and is esteemed a man of the greatest ability and the most sterling integrity by every man whose opinion is worth anything from end to end of the Dominion. The tenders were placed in his hands and in the hands of his assistant, Mr. Marcus Smith, with instructions to report. They reported that Morse & Co were unequal to the work; that Andrews, Jones & Co., so far as they could learn, were entirely unequal to the work; that the first available tender they came to was that of Fraser, Grant & Pitblado—the first men that they believed were able to deal with such a contract at all. What did I do? Suppose I had taken their advice? They recommended to the Government to pass over Morse & Co., and Andrews, Jones & Co., and give the contract to Fraser, Grant & Pitblado. We did not take their advice. We said it was quite true that it was of the highest importance to push the work with vigor, but, we said, we have adopted a test of the *bona fides* of tenders and of the ability of those who make them. We have said that if they deposit a certain sum of money that shows their *bona fides* and that if when called upon they deposit five per cent. of the gross amount of the contract that shows their ability. We had fixed the test and therefore we disregarded what we knew to be perfectly sound advice and we said to them, put up the money. They could not put up five per cent.—nor ten per cent. We said to Andrews, Jones & Co., who declared that they had the money ready, put up your money and if you do so within so many days you shall have the contract. Now why did we limit them to a very short period? Because I had Mr. Fleming's written statement that to lose a week would probably result in the loss of a year, that just at that time if we did not make a contract and let them get in their supplies before the frost came out they could not attempt to proceed for twelve months. We gave them more time and at the end of that time they could not put up the money. They had eight days and at the end of eight days they had not put up the money but they got Morse & Co., whose tender had been passed over, to put up a part of it.

But they were unable to put up the money. Under these circumstances we called upon Fraser Grant & Pitblado who within three days deposited the \$200,000. The contract is now practically finished and cars are running daily over this track built in the face of gigantic difficulties, and yet to this hour from that hour I have been abused because, as it is alleged, I passed over lower tenders in order to give my friends that contract. Now those contractors were no more my friends than they are yours, Mr. Chairman. Fraser, I knew slightly. I barely knew him by sight. I had never

received the slightest favour in the world from him although I understood that he was a Conservative. Grant, I did not know by sight. I had met him but once. And Pitblado I only knew as a very violent political opponent and a man who had done all he could all his life to keep me out of power. Yet for five long years the "Globe" has rung the changes upon 'my friends.' Fraser, Grant & Pitblado; and you can understand what sort of a cause it is that a great paper must have when it stoops to the retailing for five years of that which it knows to be one of the most lying slanders. Why do they call these men my friends? For the purpose of making it appear that I assisted to get this contract unfairly into their hands. Yet they repeat this slander notwithstanding the fact that Sanford Fleming in his report stated that they were the only men down to their tender that could begin to grapple with that work. They associated with themselves Manning, McDonald & Co., and I was very glad they did so. This was a contract of four millions of dollars, and which, in addition to putting up two hundred thousand dollars, required that they should command a half million of money at once to enable them to do anything at all upon this work. And, sir, there never was,—it would be impossible for any public man or any Minister of the Crown ever to take greater care and pains for the protection of the public interest than we did. They said they had associated Manning, McDonald & Company with them. I knew McDonald was a good contractor, and that Manning was a man of wealth, and I was very glad to hear that they had entered into this arrangement. We gave them the contract. Now what does the "Globe" say? It says that Sir Charles Tupper, who would not give Andrews, Jones & Company a few days more to put up the money, could give Fraser, Grant & Pitblado three weeks to sign the contract. Why, sir, they know perfectly well that Mr. Mackenzie let scores of contracts remain unsigned for a much longer period, and men went to work the moment they were told that they should have the contract, and in many cases the contract was not signed for months afterwards, until it had been to a large extent performed. They know that the only important thing was to settle the contract, and capital would be at work at once, and that the signature had nothing to do with the matter, except as a mere formality. The contract was practically made the moment the deposit was in our hands, and we did not give them one moment more than Andrews, Jones & Co. got to put up the money. Yet for four years the "Globe" has rung the changes as to corruption and favoritism in regard to this matter! I have no hesitation in saying that, after twenty-eight years of public life, in which I have striven with all the power that God has given me to make a character and reputation for myself. I would stake my whole character upon the letting of these two contracts, under an examination by the most eminent engineers and the ablest business men that can be found. (Great cheering.) Well, sir, they say that these people have been assisted, that the government have recouped them, that we obtained from them large sums of money for election purposes. Now, I ought to know something

about that; the money all goes through my hands that they receive, and I know that they never received a dollar that was not certified to by Sanford Fleming or Collingwood Schreiber, and I believe that those who know these gentlemen know very well that you cannot get very much money through either of them without earning it. (Cheers and laughter). They never received one single dollar that was not received upon the certificate of the Chief Engineer that the money was earned under the contract. But it is said that the engineer was removed. Well, when I was in England Jennings was transferred to British Columbia, that is quite true. The contractors complained of the engineer and I never had the good fortune to get through a contract yet without some grumbling against the engineers. I believe it is a chronic mood on the part of the contractors in endeavoring to advance their interests to say that the engineers have dealt unfairly with them. My friend Mr. Fleming, with the best intentions in the world, with the view of accomplishing the saving of a large amount of public money, knowing that these two contracts run over this 185 miles through a most difficult country and believing that it would be possible to improve the surveys and effect a large saving of money, wrote a letter to Jennings, the engineer of one section, and to Mr. Caddy, the engineer of another section to say that he would guarantee to them that they should receive a percentage,—I forget how much, a small percentage—upon all the money they would save by the improvement of the line. What was the result? We took the position that by a careful re-location on the ground by a staff of engineers a large amount of money could be saved. This was done, and I have no hesitation in saying that a thing that was never heard of before was accomplished in Canada,—that we completed these two contracts with a million and one-half of dollars in the treasury under the amount at which the work was contracted! I believe that the work was greatly stimulated by the exertions made and letters written by Mr. Fleming. He wrote them without my knowledge; the government did not know that he had written them. He was himself alone responsible, and was prompted by the deep interest that he took in the work, and it was only when he severed his connection with the government that the letters were placed in my hands, and I called upon the government to assume the responsibility. The contractors then complained, and said that the engineer was doing them a gross injustice, and that the reason he did it was that he had an absolute direct monetary interest in the matter. They said, you are reducing the work that we were entitled to perform over a million dollars, and we are not getting fair play. But Mr. Jennings was not transferred on that account. He was not transferred till the time came when Mr. Caddy, who was a high-minded, able and honorable man, was appointed to take charge of both sections,—the work having been so far advanced that one engineer could attend to both sections. Then a question arose with reference to measurements. They claimed that an injustice had resulted from the measurements. Mr. Schreiber said, "I will take pains to ascertain whether the measure-

ments are correct or not." He sent two gentlemen of high standing and character, Mr. Bell and Mr. Donkin for the purpose of having most conclusive evidence in his possession as to the actual amount of work done by the contractors. When we made these exertions for the purpose of getting the road open a year or two sooner than we otherwise could, by changing the character of the work the contractors claimed it was an injustice to them, and the government agreed that when the work was completed it should be left to an independent arbitration to say what was right between man and man. Were these facts concealed in any way? No; on the floor of Parliament I stated them. I told Mr. Blake that the contractors had complained of the measurements, and we had agreed to take the work out of the hands of the contractors for the purpose of giving the people of Canada the benefit of the use of that road this summer. When I tell you of the enormous tide of travel and traffic that is pouring into the North-West, and that we could get in six days from Toronto to Winnipeg freight that could not go around via St. Paul, in six weeks, you can understand what it is for the people of the North-West and for the people of Canada to have that road open. The only way of having it open this year was the course we pursued. That was to settle with the contractors. For this reason: They could not run the road after the first of July as their contract terminated, and it was impossible without destruction of life and property to have one company constructing the road, and another operating it. I said, we will take this road out of your hands and pay you for it, and pass it over to the Canadian Pacific Railway and settle with them. These facts were stated, and approved of by Mr. Blake and every member of the House of Commons, because every man could see that the road was taken, not in the interest of any individual or company, but in the interest of the country itself. What was the first step? I said: Give me a statement of the terms upon which you are willing to settle with me for the three hundred thousand that remains. They required that they should be paid fifteen per cent. on that amount. I said why? They said, because of the money that we have expended in the preparation to perform that work for which we now get nothing. We put in steam shovels, and established works to put us in a position in which we could make money; hitherto we have been losing money, now we have reached a point at which it is possible to make a profit. I do not pretend to judge of a question of that kind. I handed it to the Chief Engineer and told him to make me a report. They required us to come in and take the rolling stock off their hands. I said, we will not do it; you must sell that yourself for what it is worth; I will only deal with you in regard to the contract that I have made. Mr. Schreiber reported that they were entitled to the fifteen per cent. on their work, but that it ought to come off of the Pacific Railway Company into whose hands the work was given. I said, send for Mr. Van Horne who was connected with the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. I said to him, "there are the

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terms which my Chief engineer says are fair terms,—that is, to say fifteen per cent. on the work that remains to be done." Mr. Van Horn admitted that the arrangement was a fair and reasonable one, and that they should do it, and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company purchased the rolling stock of their own motion. It was a thing with which we had nothing to do. There is the whole statement; and out of that transaction, stated fairly in the presence of Mr. Blake, and approved of by every member of the House of Commons, these lying scandals have been concocted, because they thought I had gone out of the country; that I was beyond their reach and would not be on the spot to give them their answer.

Then for the purpose of showing that I was willing to rob the country in the interests of Fraser & Co., they said I had forced Whitehead into partnership with them and then taken the work into the hands of the government. This is not only not true, but it happens to be the reverse of truth. Whitehead entered into a deed of co-partnership with Fraser and Grant. They brought down the deed of co-partnership to me at Ottawa to ratify. I refused, and said you cannot go into partnership at all, because we cannot recognise any person with Whitehead, since we have one hundred thousand dollars security for the execution of the contract, and if we allow him to take in a partner it will vitiate the security. They therefore made the contract without my knowledge, and I refused to ratify it. But in the meantime they had advanced Whitehead twenty five thousand dollars. Mr. Lash was the Deputy Minister of Justice, Mr. Blake's former partner, now in Mr. Blake's office, whom Mr. Blake will say is not only an able lawyer, but as high-minded a man as lives in Canada. Every dollar was paid by Mr. Lash because I did not have anything to do with it, since I said it was a legal question. The proceeds of Mr. Whitehead's plant were put in Mr. Lash's hands, and he disposed of the money. Every dollar that Fraser & Grant got they got from Mr. Lash as Deputy Minister of Justice; and it is out of such material as that that this paper ventures to manufacture that statement. Now, what about the money for the elections? It would not be at all surprising if Mr. Manning, who is a wealthy man, contributed to the elections. I believe that it is the Ontario elections they allude to. Mr. Shie's, before he went into contracting at all, was a wholesale grocer in Toronto, one of the most active and energetic members of the party to be found in the Dominion. Mr. Macdonald was a Conservative, and it would not be at all surprising if they contributed; but I say his openly and above board, in the presence of this company, whence I suppose my words will be carried on the wings of the press to every corner of the Dominion of Canada: I am not aware of their having contributed a single dollar for party purposes. I have been Minister of Public Works and Minister of Railways and Canals since 1878, and I say that from the hour I entered office down to this hour, if they will show a single instance in which I ever personally benefited myself, or ever received one dollar for my party from any

contractor, I will consent to be driven with disgrace out of public life. I knew this, that from the hour I should accept a contribution for party purposes from a contractor, directly or indirectly, I should be his slave instead of his master, and from the hour when I entered upon the duties of these offices I never had a transaction with a contractor, and never exchanged a word that I would not have been glad to have Mr. Mackenzie on the one side of me and Mr. Blake on the other.

When year after year for long years this paper and other portions of their press had filled the country with lying slanders in reference to the Canadian Pacific Railway, the Government appointed a Royal Commission, and that Royal Commission sat and examined every person that they had any reason to suppose had any connection with any contract. I appeared before that Royal Commission and gave my sworn testimony. Every contractor was put upon the stand and was asked whether there was any interest on the part of the Government, or any member of it, in connection with the contract that he had. Every person they could get hold of was called before the Commission, and instead of sustaining one jot or tittle of the lying slanders, there in that report of the volumes of evidence taken before the Royal Commission, you will find that after examining anybody and everybody who could be supposed to be cognizant of any facts bearing upon the inquiry, so far from there being one word of truth or one particle of foundation for those slanders it was the very reverse. So complete was the refutation that no man in Parliament was found to endorse one of their slanders, and is there any stronger evidence than that leaders of the Liberal party should allow these things to go unchallenged assuming them to be true? Is there any man who does not know that if Mr. Blake or Mr. Mackenzie could establish any of those charges it would be the greatest thing for themselves that could possibly be done. It has never been attempted on the floor of the House. I have again and again told those gentlemen that I was ready for the most exhaustive examination by a committee of themselves, on sworn testimony, but to this hour there has never been a man found within the walls of Parliament to endorse one of those slanders. And what is the consequence? That the "Globe" news paper to day, that should be a power in the land, which as the organ of a great party, should have immense power throughout this country, as is powerless to deal with any real act of wrong or injustice, as it is possible for a journal to be. Any man in this country may do anything he chooses in the conduct of his political life, and they are powerless to bring him to the bar of public opinion, because they have outraged that public opinion so long by gross and malignant falsehood, that no person pays the slightest attention to anything they say. (Cheers) When the examination upon the C. P. R. Commission was going on the "Globe" hinted that if the Commissioners would call upon this man or summon that man before them, they would be able to learn something about the matter. I cut the paragraph out and I asked the Commission to call every man that had been

named. They did so, and instead of being able to sustain the charge, they themselves admitted that there was no ground for them. Then the Secretary of the Commission wrote to the "Globe," requesting them, if they could, to name some person who would give evidence to substantiate the charges that had been made. They said they did not know anything about it, that they had heard these things mentioned, but had no personal knowledge of them. I hope, therefore, that you will excuse me from dealing any further with such matters, but it was impossible for me to sit down without dealing at some length with a matter of such vital importance to the reputation and character of the public men of this country.

I may say that I have endeavored throughout the course of my public life to give some evidence that I was not wildly ambitious or a mercenary politician as the "Globe" has called me. Let me allude to one or two further instances that do not exactly bear out that character. When I declined to go into the cabinet Sir John, Sir Alexander and their colleagues very kindly offered me the position of Chairman of the Intercolonial Railway Commission, which would have enabled me to occupy my seat in parliament and would have given me \$4000 a year. The office was subsequently conferred upon Mr. Walsh. I thanked them very much for their kindness but said that until the confidence of the people of Nova Scotia was restored I would not accept any office or position in the country, and I never did. I did not take the position of President of the Council and member of the Cabinet until a majority of the members from the Province came to me and asked me to do so as the greatest favor I could do them and the greatest benefit I could confer upon the province. My present position I think does not bear out the charge that I have been excessively mercenary. I have not spared myself or my health in the exertions of public life. In 1881 the strain of course was very great in parliament when the Pacific Railway measure was carried. Mr. Blake a very able and powerful man adopted during the recess of parliament, the policy of making a direct appeal to the people and of course I was obliged to follow him. I was obliged at a very inclement season to address great audiences in London, in Toronto and subsequently in Montreal. I believe the exertions that I was compelled to make outside of parliament, as well as inside, did a good deal to settle the public mind in reference to that great and important question. But I found myself at the close of the session in a very bad state of health. I went to England to consult there the most eminent physicians, who told me that I must choose between having my life very greatly shortened and having to relax my application to my parliamentary duties. When therefore, Sir Alexander Galt wrote to Sir John Macdonald to say that he wished to resign the high office he held, that it was not in his power owing to private reasons personal to himself, to remain, I said to Sir John that I thought, that if I was obliged to leave parliament, I could find a field of usefulness in the discharge of the duties of that office which would not involve the necessity of my retiring altogether from public life. I need not say that the very

thought of severing my connection with my constituency that had for twenty-eight years continuously elected me a representative, and had stood by me through evil and good report, both in and out of power, caused me the severest possible pang. (Cheers.) I deeply regret that the illness of my wife has made it impossible for me to visit my country to the extent that I had contemplated. Sir John at once said to me, that while he would part with me as a member of the Cabinet with the greatest regret, of course I knew that any position in the service of the country was at my disposal, and that he would only be too happy to meet my wishes. He desired Sir Alexander however, to retain office for a longer period, but the longest period that we could induce him to remain in that position was down to the first of this month. It was then arranged and expected that I would leave parliamentary life for a time at all events, and seek in a change of air and absence from parliamentary duties a restoration to health. I may say that this matter like all state secrets, leaked out, and the country became very much agitated. The very kind notices that appeared in the Conservative press without a single exception from one end of the country to the other, and the strong feeling that existed on the part of the members supporting the government both in the Senate and in the House of Commons and especially among the members from my own province all operated very strongly upon my mind, and having been enabled to absent myself from the House of Commons through the kindness of Mr. McKenzie, who very obligingly paired off with me at the commencement, as neither of us was very well, so that we both went home while our colleagues were fighting the battles into the small hours beyond the twelfth,—I found my health very much better. With my returning health Sir John said they all regarded my absence as so serious, they hoped I would not conclude to sever my connection with the cabinet and parliament, but would go to London and enjoy there the benefit of changing air and be enabled to come back and take my seat by his side during the next session of parliament. (Cheers.) I am glad to say that there was not a colleague, at the council board, that there was not a member of the House of Commons or a member of the Senate from any of the provinces of this wide Dominion, supporting us, but joined in that desire, and I believe I am safe in saying that not only the gentlemen who are doing me this great honor to-night, but the great mass of the people of Nova Scotia, irrespective of party, joined in the sentiment and desired that I should be enabled to retain my position. I know that many of my strongest political opponents, gentlemen who would feel it their duty if there was a general election to do all they could to restore their party to power have said in the most open and unqualified way that while the Conservative party is in power they wish to see me in the position I occupy. It is a very proud position for me to occupy to feel that I have been enabled by a zealous course of doing all that was in my power for the interests of my country to stand to-day in the confidence and I believe in the affections of the people of this

country than in any previous period of my life. If anything would discourage the organs of the Opposition in the dissemination of their malignant inventions I should think that the futility of their efforts would do so. Had I been so very mercenary as this organ represents, I would hardly have preferred to double my duties at \$7000 instead of taking my predecessors position at \$14,000. My position as a member of Parliament prevents me from touching one dollar of the \$10,000 of salary which the Commissioner in London receives, as against the \$7000, which is the salary of a Cabinet Minister. So that in electing to do double work at the salary of \$7000 when I might have discharged the duties of only one office and taken \$14,000, I have hardly sustained that extremely mercenary character that this paper gives me credit for. (Cheers.) In assuming the duties of my office I am afraid that Sir Alex. Galt, whom I have too long kept you from listening to to-night, has by the manner in which he has discharged the duties of his office made it a very difficult one for any successor to occupy. I feel that I shall be placed at a very great disadvantage and I do not hesitate to say, in all sincerity, that when I know that I have to meet the same men whom his brilliant talents and great reputation have impressed with the idea of the qualities of a High Commissioner, I feel the greatest diffidence in entering upon the duties of such an office. I am going to do, however, all that lies in my power in the interest of my country, and I trust that my health may be so far re-established as to enable me to take my department again and join my colleagues in the administration of public affairs. Let me say, in closing, that nothing in the long course of public life has given me greater pleasure than to have such evidences as I possess this evening of the sympathy and support of my fellow-countrymen. Nothing could lead me to feel so strongly that one might well give health, and life itself, in the interest of his country, and feel that he was amply repaid by the kind and generous sympathy of his supporters and of the people whom he had endeavored to serve. I confess that I am an ambitious man. I do not confess to being a mercenary man. A certain amount of money is very necessary to people's comfort, as you know. I have not felt disposed to speak to you about my private affairs, but in strict confidence with a personal friend, I did make a statement in Ottawa. I was rather astonished afterwards to find a couple of columns in the "Mail" detailing all the conversation, but as it has leaked out there, I may again refer to the matter. Driven from pillar to post, unable to sustain their charges against me by evidence, the organs of the opposition have been accustomed to say that one thing at all events is very certain, that is, that Dr. Tupper entered public life a very poor man, and that he is now a very rich man. Well, sir, my answer is that both statements are false. I never was a more independent man in my life than on the day I accepted the office of Provincial Secretary. The best pair of horses that I ever owned I then sold, and I have never been able to provide a pair since, except

when I was out of office. Nor am I now a very rich man. I would not, if I went out of office to-morrow, be able to continue to live in the modest and economical manner in which I have been accustomed to live without going back to my profession. I stated the truth to the correspondent of the "Mail." But I do confess to being an ambitious man. I was never ambitious of place or power; but I have an ambition. My great ambition from the hour I entered public life to this day has been to do something that my children would be able to point to as showing the value of my having lived before them. (Cheers.) My ambition is a great ambition. It has been an ambition to do something great for my country, to see something great accomplished for my country. And my ambition has been abundantly gratified. Had my efforts been tenfold greater, had my loss of health been tenfold greater I would have been abundantly repaid in seeing the country of which I am an humble citizen rising, not only gradually and steadily but latterly with rapid strides to a position of which every patriotic Canadian may be justly proud. I say, sir, that the only ambition I ever had was to achieve something for my country, and to see it gradually rising to a position of which every Canadian may be justly proud. I thank you heartily for this banquet. I shall never forget the kind and generous manner in which I have been received by this large, influential and representative body, not only of the citizens of Halifax, but of many gentlemen from all sections of the Province.

The hon. gentleman closed amid deafening applause, the whole assemblage rising and giving three cheers, which were repeated with great enthusiasm.

The Chairman then with a few introductory remarks, proposed the toast of the Dominion, coupling it with the name of Sir A. T. Galt, late High Commissioner of the Dominion to London. Sir A. T. Galt on rising to respond was received with cheers.

He said, that at this late hour it would be perfectly impossible to attempt to do justice to the toast of the Dominion of Canada. There was no place in the whole Dominion where he would rather respond than in the city of Halifax, which was associated in his mind with the early steps to which Sir Charles Tupper had alluded for the formation of a federal union. The eloquent speech which had just been delivered, was as it were, an epitome of the progress of Confederation itself. It did not require the eloquent defence which Sir Charles had made of his public career to establish his reputation for zeal, ability and integrity in the discharge of his public duties. Not only as to Sir Charles, but as to the public men of this country generally, on either side of politics, he was prepared to deny that a well-authenticated case of corruption had ever been made out against any one of them, and he thought that the purity of our political life was one of the best guarantees of the permanence and prosperity of the

Dominion. Addressing himself to the relations between Canada and the mother country, he explained that in the matter of commercial treaties, a subject which had been agitated somewhat of late in the parliament of Canada, the freedom of the Dominion of Canada was practically absolute. This subject had been brought up in the legislature of the Dominion by Mr. Blake and it had been alleged that we were in an inferior position as regarded our power to negotiate with foreign countries. The Governor-General in one of his parting addresses had stated in very distinct terms that Canada did possess these powers, and he wished to take this opportunity, which was the first opportunity since he had returned to corroborate that statement of His Excellency. As a matter of legality a treaty had to be made between the sovereign executives of any two countries. The Queen of England, the Emperor of Germany or the President of France must be parties to treaties. But this was a mere question of form. The question of absolute interest was whether the right was accorded to us to decide the points upon which we were willing to agree with a foreign country. And he was prepared to say that in that respect every possible concession had been made by Her Majesty's Government. No difficulty had ever been raised by them with regard to the terms upon which Canada desired to enter into any negotiations with France or any other country. They did not pretend to exercise any control over the terms upon which the government of Canada had instructed him to negotiate. He felt that it was entirely too late to refer at any length to matters on the other side of the water, and he must confess that the eloquent speech of Sir Charles Tupper had driven out of his mind what he had intended to say, but he felt that they should congratulate themselves on the fact that Sir Charles Tupper, after having for twenty-eight years occupied a position of the greatest public usefulness and service to the country, had been able to undertake the duties of representing this country abroad. He deeply regretted, as all present must equally regret, that one of the reasons assigned for taking this step was failing health, and he was sure they would all unite in a prayer that the effect of the change upon his health would be its speedy and complete restoration. (Hear, hear). He was quite sure that the hope Sir Charles had held out that with renewed health he would resume his political duties in this country would be an immense gratification to his political and personal friends. At the same time having a knowledge of the work there was to do on the other side he must confess that he thought it would be a very serious loss to the interests of Canada if he should carry out that intention.

It was a matter of great importance that Canada should be represented in England now by a man of the calibre of Sir Charles. At this moment Canada was better known in England than ever before. She was better appreciated by the public men of England and better noticed by the press, and there was a large movement in favor of emigration to this country. Its securities stood higher than ever before. Indeed, they stood third in the whole list. The United Kingdom stood first, the United States second and Canada third. Under such circumstances it was desirable that the interests of the country should be in the hands of an able man like our friend Sir Charles Tupper. They all felt, they knew from his past history, that where difficulties occurred he had always been able and ready to meet them. He was not afraid to face responsibilities and the position of commissioner was occasionally one of vast responsibilities, and it was highly necessary to have a judicious and able man representing the interests of this country. Therefore although they would all unite most cordially and heartily in the hope that Sir Charles' health should be restored, he hoped that the intention he had expressed of returning at an early date to the Dominion would not be carried out. But whether he should return or remain he was entitled to the gratitude of the people of this province and of the whole Dominion for the great services that he had rendered to the country. He had been assailed with slanders from time to time which he hardly thought it was necessary for him to refute as they were not believed by the country. In conclusion he would express a wish for Sir Charles' speedy restoration to health, a most successful termination to his labor on the other side, and if it should be his determination to return, no one would welcome him more heartily and cordially on returning to this country than himself. (Cheers.)

Sir Charles Tupper then proposed the health of the Chairman, and in doing so spoke in the most highly complimentary terms of the political ability, the soundness of judgment and the undeviating integrity that had given him a strong hold upon the good opinion of the country. He alluded particularly to the services that the Chairman had rendered in connection with the project to extend railway connection to the Town of Dartmouth, for which he announced that a contract between the town and the government had just recently been signed for the construction of that work.

Mr. Stairs expressed his hearty thanks for the hearty manner in which the toast had been proposed and received. Nothing that he could say just now would interest the assembly further than to remark that he had always taken and would continue to take the deepest public interest in the questions that could be discussed in this city and county of Halifax or Province of Nova Scotia. He had done what he could to forward the construction of the railway into Dartmouth, and aided by the help of Sir Charles Tupper, and by the suggestions made to which he had alluded, by

the new Minister of Railways, as well as by Mr. Pottinger and Mr. Archibald, he was happy to know that the matter had been brought to such a position that the road was to be completed in an early day. He was quite sure that it would be of as great utility to Halifax as to Dartmouth. They flattered themselves that it was just as great an advantage to Halifax to be connected with Dartmouth as for Dartmouth to be connected with Halifax.

Concluding with a most hearty expression of thanks for the manner in which the toast

had been received, he proposed the health of the Dominion and Local Parliaments.

Hon. Senators McFarlane and Almon responded on behalf of the Senate, and D. B. Woodworth, Esq., M. H. Pichey, Esq., and M. B. Daly, Esq., on behalf of the House of Commons. A. C. Bell, Esq., M. P. P., responded on behalf of the Local Legislature.

The press was then proposed by the Chairman and responded to by J. J. Stewart, after which the proceedings were brought to a close by the singing of God Save the Queen.

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