

(Mr. Roche), and the Solicitor General (Mr. Meighen). I wonder how much they have to do with the present condition of delay. Perhaps the Minister of the Interior gave us the secret this afternoon. He told us that the reason why Sir Rodmond Roblin did not ask that the natural resources of Manitoba be transferred to the province was that he was quite satisfied if Manitoba received from the Dominion as favourable treatment as Saskatchewan or Alberta had received. At the first session of this Parliament that treatment was accorded the province of Manitoba. The Minister of the Interior went farther and said that the reason that Mr. Roblin had signed the memorandum with Mr. Sifton and Mr. Scott was to protect himself against criticism; and I think I am fair in saying that it was not because he thought that it would be better that Manitoba should have control of her natural resources. Now, the three members of the Government whom I have named are in the close confidence of Sir Rodmond Roblin. Has he convinced them that the present arrangement is as good as could be made for the province of Manitoba? Are they the ones who are holding back the Prime Minister from carrying out his pledges? Are they the ones for whom he speaks when in answering us to-day he quotes the speeches which were made on this side of the House? I do not know of any instance in which when a question which has been an issue at the polls has been put before the Government with the request to carry out their pledges, there has been such an unsatisfactory answer as there has been to-day and so little prospect of the ultimate settlement of the question in relation to which those pledges were given.

Mr. F. L. SCHAFFNER (Souris): It was not my intention to make any remarks in the present discussion. But a splendid example has been set by preceding speakers—one which I hope will be followed in other discussions—of speaking briefly and to the point. I think we could save much time in this House if hon. members kept in mind the excellent qualities which these speeches exemplify. My hon. friend from Saskatoon (Mr. McCraney) has been the briefest of all, and under his example I venture to say a few words. It was my duty and my pleasure, at an earlier stage of the session, to make some remarks as to the extent to which the present Government has fulfilled the pledges made to the people before the election of 1911. Some of my friends were good enough to say

they were surprised to find that so much had been done within so short a time to fulfil these promises. If in the present case the Government has not gone as far as we expected they would, I believe it is the only case of the kind in their record, and I believe, more than that, that the fault lies with our friends on the other side of the House. I have a great deal of respect for the right hon. the leader of the Opposition (Sir Wilfrid Laurier)—I always have had. In many ways I admire him, but I cannot go so far as to say that I admire him for his consistency. In fact, in my opinion, the very word 'consistency' is absent from his vocabulary, and its place is taken by opportunism. Any student of this Parliament in the last few years, any student of the life of the right hon. gentleman, if he is fair, must agree with what I say. I was delighted, however, to hear the right hon. gentleman say to-day that his policy on this great question of giving the natural resources into control of the three prairie provinces was not like his policy of free food, a policy 'for the moment,' but that it had lasted from 1905 up to the present day. I inferred from what the right hon. gentleman said, and I think I was justified in that inference, that if he were in power to-day he would not change the settlement that was made in 1905, that is, would not give to the Prairie provinces their natural resources. That is worthy of notice and of commendation. Many of the members of this House who have come in since 1905 may think that this is a new question. But it is not by any means new; it was discussed and fought out when the two autonomy Bills which provided for the establishment of the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta were before Parliament.

I have already pointed out the many promises that this Government has fulfilled; those respecting terminal elevators, the Hudson Bay railway, reduction of the tariff, reduction of freight rates, reduction of express rates, the Grain Commission, the Tariff Commission—although this last, I am extremely sorry to say, is not on our statute books. The Government has fulfilled those promises. Why have they not in the short time during which they have been in power fulfilled to the fullest extent the promises which our friends claim the right hon. Prime Minister made in western Canada with regard to natural resources? I submit that the reason may be found in hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House. I would like to tell new members of the House that they will