

the farmer and which has devoted its best efforts in the past to the lowering of the tariff.

Mr. MEIGHEN. Did not the hon. gentleman have a resolution on the order paper to the same effect which he purposely refrained from moving, and so blocked discussion for a year?

Mr. KNOWLES. No. I say that is not so.

Mr. LENNOX. That is on the record, too.

Mr. FOSTER (North Toronto). Perhaps my hon. friend will now come to the amendment.

Mr. KNOWLES. I have no objection to discussion with the member for Portage la Prairie (Mr. Meighen), but I will not be detained by the hon. gentleman from Simcoe (Mr. Lennox). I draw the line at some things. I have a word or two to say in regard to whether this government is consistent in its course with respect to the matter of public control or operation of elevators. I have before me the Winnipeg 'Telegram' and, in its issue of June 20, 1911, at page 12, column 6, I read the following words spoken by the present right hon. Prime Minister:

I have arrived at the conclusion that the result can only be attained by state control and operation of the terminal elevators. We propose to carry out that policy without delay if returned to power.

The committee will especially mark the words:

Without delay if returned to power.

Now, permit me to read one or two more such utterances before I speak of the statement and the promise there made. I turn to the remarks of the right hon. the leader of the government, then leader of the opposition, made at Brandon on the 20th June last, and reported in the Winnipeg 'Telegram' of the 21st June, page 12, column 3:

I stated at Winnipeg, and I state here, that the government control and operation of them is the only effective method of putting an end to these grievances, and we are prepared to stand for that and for the moderate and reasonable statement put forward by my friend who assisted me on that question.

And later on in the same speech:

If it should be the will of the people of Canada to impose upon me the great responsibility of being called upon to form a government in Canada, and after that government has been formed the policy I have outlined will be carried out by the government as I have stated, or one man of the government will go out of public life.

Could you get a promise more exacting, one whereby a man more fully ties himself up to the words he has uttered? He makes the promise that government control and operation will be carried out without delay, declares that it is the only effective method of solving the problem, and says that if he is returned to power and the government he forms does not carry out this promise there will be one man less in public life. If that means anything, it means that government control and operation would be carried out at once or the right hon. gentleman himself would not only resign from the government but would leave public life. If it does not mean that, it does not mean anything.

Now, let me read also the report of the meeting at Estevan, reported in the Winnipeg 'Telegram' of June 22:

Mr. Borden told the grain growers as he did at Brandon, that he was heartily in sympathy with the agitation for speedy government construction and ownership of the Hudson Bay railway, the government ownership and control of the terminal elevators, and the inauguration of the chilled meat industry, and so on.

This was the promise, plainly and absolutely made in June last. The right hon. gentleman has had control of the affairs of this country for several months. We have asked, time after time, what is his policy on this question? The Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Foster) tells us that, apparently by way of experiment, a small experiment, there will be one or two elevators taken over by lease, and run and experimented with. Is that government ownership and control? Will that solve the problem? Will that remove the evils of faulty grading or prevent the manipulation of the product of the farmer's toil? No hon. member of this House will say that the Prime Minister is going to solve the problem in that way. The most that can be said is that he is going to experiment with it. Was it an experiment that he promised in June last? No, he was convinced then and declared that the policy would be carried out. Now he experiments, he plays with the question.

Mr. LANCASTER. Is the hon. gentleman objecting to a beginning being made?

Mr. KNOWLES. I object to the right hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden), coming to my constituency and telling my constituents one thing, and then coming here to Ottawa and doing another.

We have had a number of promises from these gentlemen who are now in power. I wish to refer to some of them to shew the general system of the present government. Many of their supporters elected in Ontario were elected be-