

a plank which should be generally adopted in this country, they have a perfect right to put it in their platform and advocate its general adoption. But I take exception to the hon. gentleman and those who think with him carrying into effect the planks of their platform before they have had an opportunity to crystallize them into legislation, for that is a very different thing. If the members of this House wish to place legislation on the statute book favouring the referendum and recall, that is all right, but for some people in certain parts of the country to take the law into their own hands, as some have done in this matter, is something which I think should be very strongly deprecated.

The hon. member (Mr. Gould) has addressed some remarks to the hon. member (Mr. Tweedie) which I think he might very well have addressed to some hon. gentleman in his own particular group who have been in this House as long or longer than the hon. member (Mr. Tweedie). The hon. member (Mr. Halbert) sitting next to my hon. friend (Mr. Gould) thinks that some members of this House are rather fearful of the recall. Well, I do not think the hon. member himself had such an overwhelming majority that he should feel entirely peaceful at the prospect of facing his electors again. He did not have a very large majority to boast of, although he was in the field a long time and had a host of supporters backing up his candidature. He says he would not want a seat in this House if 60 or 75 per cent of his electors petitioned for his resignation. Would he wish to hold his seat in this House if 50 per cent of his electors sent in a petition for his resignation? The hon. member does not see fit to answer that question. It is getting on pretty thin ice so far as he is concerned. He was mighty careful to fix the percentage pretty high in his own case, and was mighty careful not to say that he would resign if 51 per cent of his electors petitioned for his resignation. That would be on too dangerous ground for the hon. member. My hon. friend does not know the facts with regard to the recall. He says that 60 or 75 per cent of the electors of a constituency must ask for the recall of a member before he gives up his seat, but the hon. member (Mr. Gould), speaking in this House on April 13th, said:

An agreement does exist between my committee, whose names I have read, any myself. Forty per cent of the number of electors who voted at my election—

Not forty per cent of the number of electors on the list, but forty per cent of those who voted at his election.

—may, if I refuse to do what this committee asks me to do on the floor of this House—and that committee must meet very often and find out what public opinion is in the district of Assiniboia—if they advise me and I refuse to do that, they can apply the recall and ask me to go back.

So my hon. friend (Mr. Halbert) did not know what he was talking about when he spoke of 60 or 75 per cent having to sign a petition for the recall, for according to the hon. member (Mr. Gould) if forty per cent, not of the electors on the list, but of the electors who voted at his election, ask for his resignation he is bound to give it.

The objectionable feature is that the hon. member (Mr. Gould) entered into an agreement with a certain group of men in his constituency. He thereby placed himself in the hands of some fifteen men in that constituency and he says they keep careful watch of all his movements and actions in this House. He gets advice from there occasionally as to how he should conduct himself down here. They keep tab on his movements and discuss his every action in Ottawa, and the retention of his seat in this House depends upon his strict compliance with the dictates of these fifteen men. This, at any rate, is according to the statement of the hon. gentleman made on April 13th. He entered into an agreement which is tantamount to a signed resignation; he says so himself. His conduct is vigilantly watched by these men, who keep track of everything he does and says in this House; and if he should assume an attitude down here that does not commend itself to them they can initiate certain steps to get him to resign his seat. He may object to these fifteen men commanding him to hand in his resignation, because he has a sort of court of appeal to which he can resort. He can say: "It is all right; I entered into an agreement with you fifteen gentlemen—the council of fifteen—and although you think I have not done right at Ottawa and are asking me to quit, still, according to the agreement, I may either quit or ask you to present a petition signed by forty per cent of the number of those who polled votes." That is the position in which the hon. gentleman stands. If they get forty per cent of the number of votes polled at the election, then he must resignedly step down. Why, Sir, that is not even an expression of the opinion of the constituency. If it were fifty-one per cent or anything