

hon. friend has the temerity to tell us that this Government has done everything that the farmers want.

My hon. friend said that they were going to take over the terminal elevators. What have they done? They have bought an expensive site from Mackenzie and Mann and built one lone, lorn elevator at Fort William. That is a fine implementing of the promise that my hon. friend gave his constituents as to what would be done with reference to terminal elevators in case of a change of government.

We are not, however, discussing that point; we are discussing the question of whether or not this Government proposes to stand in the way of what the Premier of Canada asserted again and again from 1903 to 1911 as being the right and just due of the people of the West, namely, the control and administration of their natural resources. Notwithstanding the fact that the Prime Minister was opposed to the dearest wish of the people of the West when he went there on his western tour in 1911, yet I am sure that every man in this country, from coast to coast, admired the manly way in which he faced the situation. As he addressed western audience after western audience, it was well known to him that many men in his audience were opposed to his views on the trade agreement. But what did he say? He said to those people: If you were to make me Premier to-morrow, I would not support that trade agreement with the United States. Although a great majority of our people disagreed with him on that point, they admired his courage in making plain his position and not quibbling on the question. To offset the disappointment of the western people on that score, he dangled another boon before the eyes of these provinces that since their inauguration have had acute problems to solve and difficulties in the matter of providing means of transportation, better roads, etc., for the fast incoming settlers. He held out this boon to the people of the West, that, while he would not support this trade agreement that was so dear to their hearts, when he came into office his first act would be to give to those provinces their natural resources. The people admired the courageous stand of the Prime Minister when he said: 'I will not support reciprocity, even if it costs me the premiership of this Dominion.' But what are they to think, after that courageous stand, if the Prime Minister now turns his back on the promise that he has given them, and that

has secured for him the western vote to a large extent, and says to the people of western Canada, in deed if not in words: My pledge to you in 1911 was nothing but a bauble held up before you to catch your votes; I am now in office, and I propose to remain in office without carrying out and implementing the promise which means so much to you people of the West?

Hon. FRANK OLIVER (Edmonton): The question before the House to-night is not a question of natural resources; it is a question of governmental good faith. As to what the members of the late Government thought in regard to the arrangement made with the western provinces respecting subsidies and natural resources,—there is no question as to their good faith then and now. A definite arrangement was made in the broad light of day; an agreement was arrived at which was satisfactory to the people of those provinces at that time. The Government of that day stood by that agreement; they believed that it was right in principle and right in practice. They stood by it then, and they stand by it still. When that agreement was being made, the party of the Opposition, led by the present leader of the Government, took issue with the then Government on the question of principle. The then Government held that it was in the best interest of the country that the natural resources should be administered by the Dominion Government. The party of the Opposition, led by the present Prime Minister, took the view that it would be more to the interest of the country that these natural resources should be administered by the provincial Governments. It was a question of principle; there was fair room for difference of opinion, and naturally, of course, the view of the Government prevailed. It was not a question of financial advantage; it was a question of principle in regard to matters of administration, because when the financial arrangements were made, it was accepted on both sides of the House; it was accepted throughout Canada; it was accepted in the provinces principally concerned, that the financial arrangements were adequate, fair, reasonable, satisfactory to the provinces, and the only fault found with them in other parts of Canada was that they were too liberal in their terms. The law was passed; the provinces were created; a condition existed on the responsibility of the late Government. Conditions were fixed, and, as has been said here to-night, it would be difficult for this