

Mr. SPROULE. If it was not, the information given to the House was incorrect. Three companies had the option of taking one-fifth of their holdings at \$1 an acre and they bought over 10,000 acres at this price.

Mr. KNOWLES. My hon. friend no doubt is quite sincere in what he says, but he is altogether mistaken.

Mr. SPROULE. If there is any mistake it comes from the government because they gave the information to the House.

Mr. KNOWLES. I wish to get along with my speech.

Mr. FOSTER. Will he say that McGregor & Hitchcock did not buy 9,450 acres, one-tenth of their holdings of grazing lands at \$1 an acre and pay for it?

Mr. KNOWLES. That is two against one, anybody else? My hon. friend will have to admit that, I am right when I say that these people did not go on the market and buy land at \$1 an acre. I will admit that under the grazing lease the holder can buy a small amount of land for home and corral purposes, but that is different from going on the market and buying outright. I am glad my hon. friend from North Toronto (Mr. Foster) spoke with reference to that McGregor & Hitchcock lease. The hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) spoke of the Robbins Irrigation Company.

Mr. SPROULE. No, I spoke of the cattle ranching company.

Mr. KNOWLES. I will therefore qualify my remarks by saying that the government has sold semi-ar'd lands under the Irrigation Act at \$3 an acre, \$2 to be spent in improving the land. This is quite different from saying that it is sold at \$1 an acre.

Mr. FOSTER. That is not the land I spoke of.

Mr. KNOWLES. No, the hon. member refers to lands sold under the home and corral provisions of the grazing regulations.

Mr. FOSTER. But not for corral purposes?

Mr. KNOWLES. Doctors differ.

Mr. FOSTER. It does not take 9,000 acres to make a corral.

Mr. KNOWLES. I am of the opinion that any land sold in that way was sold under that clause, but I am sure that the hon. gentleman is not right in his figures about the 9,000 acres.

Mr. SPROULE. Will the hon. gentleman admit that under the terms of the leases of these three companies they are entitled to purchase, if they have not already purchased, 35,000 acres for \$1 an acre, that is one-tenth of their holdings? Is that not in accordance with the terms of the lease?

Mr. KNOWLES.

Mr. KNOWLES. I am not aware that it is, no I do not think so,—

Mr. SPROULE. It would be well for the hon. member to inform himself.

Mr. KNOWLES. Unless it is under regulations that were in force long before I became familiar with the regulations. If there were such regulations they were made by the Conservative government. I never knew of such regulations, and am confident that no such regulations have been in force since I have had anything to do with parliament. I think the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) and the hon. member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster) are both mistaken.

Mr. FOSTER. Not at all, your leader is there within a few feet of you, ask him.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Yes, my hon. friend from North Toronto (Mr. Foster) is all wrong.

Mr. KNOWLES. The hon. member will at least have to listen to me when I say that this government stands in a very favourable light compared with the previous government in regard to the alienation of land?

Mr. FOSTER. In what way?

Mr. KNOWLES. In every way.

Mr. FOSTER. If my hon. friend will substantiate that there is a fine chance for him.

Mr. KNOWLES. I have made a great many statements this afternoon and I can give the book for every statement. I have heard the hon. member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster) make a great many statements which I could have stopped by asking him to substantiate them, but we are so used to him and his statements that we do not question him.

Mr. FOSTER. Would the hon. member substantiate this one? It is his own assertion.

Mr. KNOWLES. I would have to take about half of all the 'Hansard' of this session.

Mr. FOSTER. We will give you all you want so that you substantiate it.

Mr. KNOWLES. Because my hon. friend has undoubtedly occupied a great deal more than his share of the time of the House.

Mr. FOSTER. That does not touch the question; will the hon. gentleman substantiate his statement?

Mr. KNOWLES. It is too much to go over all my hon. friend's speeches, you must remember that he spoke five hours and twenty minutes a few days ago and I do not know that he said anything worth listening to.