

the imprint of the truth of the right hon. gentleman's remark. There has been no time for deliberation. What the reason for that is I do not know; but this I do know, that with regard to that the right hon. gentleman has changed his mind very much since the first day of this session. What were the words that were put into the mouth of His Excellency the Governor General when this session opened?

The great influx of population into our North-west Territories and the very large additional areas of fertile land which are being brought under cultivation combine to further press upon us the need for increased transportation facilities for the forwarding of our grain and other products to the markets of the world, through Canadian channels.

Now, I invite the right hon. gentleman's attention to the following words, as to which I wish to address a few queries to him:

The whole question of transportation and terminal facilities continues to occupy much attention, and my government will immediately appoint a commission of experienced men to report on the subject.

I think we might well ask, what is the position of that transportation commission at the present time? Nearly five months of this session have passed away since those words were placed in the mouth of His Excellency, and I would like to know from the right hon. gentleman now, if he is able to answer me, what progress has been made with the transportation commission? Has it even been constituted? If so, is he prepared to lay its report on the Table of the House? Is it on the report of that commission, or if not on what substitute therefor is it, that the right hon. gentleman has brought this project before the House? Does he propose to proceed with this transportation commission, and, if so, upon what shall it report after this project has been brought down and passed through parliament? Upon what shall it report, and of what use shall it be? Were these words put idly into the mouth of His Excellency? Were they put into his mouth with the intention of deceiving the country? If not, has the right hon. gentleman changed his policy since the commencement of this session, and if he has, what were the overmastering reasons which led him to present this measure to the House, as he says himself in effect, without that deliberation which such a measure as this should demand at the hands of any government? No time for deliberation, when he himself had placed in the mouth of His Excellency the best and most cogent reason possible why there should be deliberation with regard to this matter. And that deliberation was not only promised then, but it was promised to us many times since the session opened; and yet apparently we are to deal with this measure without reference to any report which that commission could make.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax).

My right hon. friend waxed eloquent in one portion of his remarks upon the importance of the parliament of this country and the government of this country remaining true to pledges which were given in the past; I must confess that I thought his eloquence was most touching when he was dealing with that subject. He is so firm a believer in the sanctity of promises that he is even willing to carry out pledges made by Conservative administrations. Well, Mr. Speaker, there is a good old proverb that charity well understood begins at home, and would it not be well for the right hon. gentleman to deal with a few of the pledges which he has made to this country in the past before he undertakes to deal with pledges made by Conservative administrations? Would it not be well, before he undertakes a task of that kind, that he should give us that free trade as it is in England which he promised in Winnipeg and in every other city in the west? I have repeated his words in this House, and he has not denied them. Would it not be well for him to wait until he reduces the expenditure of this country by three or four millions? Would it not be well for him to wait until he carries out the verdict of the people pronounced in the plebiscite vote? Would it not be well for him to attend to a few of these matters before he stands up and folds his arms and announces that he is about to implement a promise made by the late Conservative administration?

The right hon. gentleman is very much impressed with the importance of a railroad through all-Canadian territory. I may say to him in passing that his government has brought down and voted during the present session, a subsidy for a system of railway which passes to the extent of nearly forty miles through American territory; and my right hon. friend did not seem to have that consideration so much in mind at that time as he does to-day.

Passing to another portion of the right hon. gentleman's remarks, I was astonished to hear the Prime Minister of this country stand up in his place in this House and say that this country is at the mercy of the United States of America on account of the bonding privilege. I do not believe in language of that kind from any man in this parliament and least of all the right hon. gentleman. We thought we had got beyond language of that kind. We heard it a good deal in days gone by, and in our ears it has a certain reminiscence which we would be very glad indeed to shut out. I do not believe that Canada is at the mercy of the United States. And if Canada is at the mercy of the United States on account of the bonding privilege, how does it happen that the government of the right hon. gentleman has stayed in its place seven years without taking any steps to remedy the situation? They have been seven years in power and they wake up to-day to the fact that Canada