

hon. Minister of the Interior to take an attitude so antagonistic to the attitude of the leader of the Conservative party in his own province. I repeat that the premiers of these prairie provinces would have been recreant to their trust and their duties if they had not called upon the Prime Minister of Canada to implement the pledges that he had made when leader of the Opposition.

I have nothing to do with the Maritime provinces nor with the financial arrangements of the Maritime provinces. As far as the people of the West are concerned, if the Maritime provinces are not getting a square deal from the federal Government let their financial arrangements be readjusted. We have no fault to find with that

but we ask, on behalf of the

9 p.m. people we represent in this House, that they be given that

boon that the leader of the Government always said it was his determination to give them and that is the control and ownership of the natural resources of the prairie provinces.

When my hon. friend the Minister of the Interior undertakes to criticise the conduct and present position of the Premier of Saskatchewan, unfortunately, he criticises the position of his own leader in this House—the leader of the Government. When he talks about financial arrangements, and how the Premier of Saskatchewan said that he was satisfied with these arrangements, he is talking of something that is beside the question. If he says that these financial arrangements were adequate then my hon. friend is contradicting the position that he and all his friends have taken since the autonomy Bills were passed in 1905. If he says they are inadequate, that they are unfair and unjust, then he must take the position as a western man that it is the duty of this Government to change that unfair and unjust arrangement and do what his party leader promised when they were in Opposition, namely, restore to us the natural resources of our provinces. My hon. friend from Souris pleaded for short speeches and I am going to be reasonable in that respect.

An hon. MEMBER: Hear, hear.

Mr. NEELY: I am not at all surprised that an hon. gentleman says 'hear, hear' because we are passing over to the hon. gentlemen some reminders and some home truths that I am sure are very unpalatable and when I spoke of concluding my remarks no doubt it gave a considerable measure of relief to these hon. gentlemen.

[Mr. Neely.]

It is delightful to hear my hon. friends opposite have to admit how consistent my leader is upon this question and if I had to sit and listen to my leader being brought to task about an emphatic and absolute promise to the people whom I represented in this House, I too, would say, 'hear, hear' if some one who was making remarks of that kind should happen to mention that he was about to bring his remarks to a speedy conclusion.

Mr. HENDERSON: The hon. gentleman has heard that same thing imputed to his leader a hundred times.

Mr. NEELY: My hon. friends around me have put the word into my mouth—imputed. My hon. friend and his friends are very good at that sort of thing, but they fall very far short in the matter of evidence and proof on a great many occasions. Even if proven in a particular instance, it is at least delightful that on one occasion my right hon. friend the leader of the Opposition finds himself the exception.

Mr. CROTHERS: The hon. gentleman is easily satisfied.

Mr. NEELY: In one case the evidence of my right hon. friend's consistency is absolutely conclusive when it comes from the mouths of my hon. friends opposite, because they would not make the admission if the facts did not absolutely prevent them from doing anything else.

This is the situation in which we find ourselves to-day in our western country. My hon. friend says that this Government has done everything that the farmers ask. I will venture to say that my hon. friend has knowledge that is not possessed by 95 out of every 100 farmers in western Canada. You would need to take a fine-tooth comb to find the individual farmer in the West who considers that he has been well used by the present Administration. What has the present Government done for him? what has my hon. friend done in the present session? Does he know what is the boon that the western farmer has asked from this Government? So insistent was the demand for that boon that even the Tory Legislature of the province of Manitoba endorsed the proposition, and what does my hon. friend and every hon. gentleman opposite do when this question comes before the House for discussion and decision? All of them with heads hanging it is true, voted against the proposition that meant the greatest boon to the western farmer that he ever had. Yet my