

throughout the land in the places and from the angles that they thought would pay. On all of them every possible phase of opinion was by some one of them held. I am in a position, and would undertake now, to name a supporter of the Government who was elected because he took any certain view and had that view accepted; and I would, at the same time, be prepared to name another supporter of the Government—very probably a member of the Government—who was elected because he preached exactly the opposite.

Something is said in the Speech on the subject of wider markets for our products. I think there is more said about it in the Speech than we will hear of during the course of the session. It is said there, also, for the benefit of the farmers of our country, that there ought to be more diversification, there ought to be better methods of culture, and there ought to be better methods of grading; but I am sure those of us on this side of the House, of whatever party, could not help but note that one subject that is of moment—a subject indeed that has earned a position of great importance, particularly in our western country—is entirely ignored. There is indeed a member of the Government elected on the solemn pledge to re-establish the Wheat Board in this country. I refer to the Minister of Agriculture. There are other members who contested on their behalf and members sitting to my left who advocated that policy. The Government is in power and is responsible. For myself I took a stand on that question that I do not think anyone had any difficulty in comprehending. I did not believe in the re-establishment of the Wheat Board as a monopolistic body, I did not believe that the conditions prevailing in the world markets to-day were such as to justify or demand that step; but I did believe that the time had come, when better marketing facilities should be given, and I stated to the people of Western Canada that if returned to power those facilities would be provided by the establishment of a board by the Government which would be prepared to handle all the grains of our country that the producers of those grains chose to commit to its charge, and would handle those grains by the methods, and with adequate powers,—save monopolistic power,—such as had the Wheat Board that handled their wheat in 1919-20. There was no misapprehension as to the meaning of my statement. Of course it would not have

[Mr. Meighen.]

done for the opponents of myself and the then Government to have concurred—that might possibly have helped us. There were those who complained, and complained bitterly that the Government had done much while in office without resorting to a general election, and that is quite true. But those who had complained that we took great and important steps, without the mandate of the people, expressed by a general election, found it necessary in this instance to get on exactly opposite ground, and to say that because I asked the mandate of the people I was playing politics and was not sincere. However, they succeeded in doing their part in preventing the establishment of that board by that course of conduct.

There is, however, a member of the present Government who expressed himself most definitely, who issued his manifesto in print and resorted to the public press regardless of expense—and I am sorry to say in some cases regardless of veracity. He is now in power and able to give effect to his views. Is he going to do so? I have heard—I may be wrongly informed; I did not see it in the press myself—that he takes the ground that those promises were made with the understanding that he would be a private member of Parliament and are not applicable now that he is a member of the Government. But the hon. member is in a rather difficult position in that regard because concomitantly with the pledge that he would put into effect this platform, he also described himself as the future Minister of Agriculture. What is his position to-day? Is he prepared now to fulfil the pledges he made to the people of Regina? What is the policy of the Government? It is worth while, apparently, to tell Parliament what is to be done on subjects that require no legislation, and no change of policy at all, but it is not worth while to tell Parliament what the Government proposes to do on the subject of the marketing of the grain of this country? Is the Government going to let this session go by without any action? If it does it will be too late for 1922; if it does there will be no relief for the grain growers this coming year; if it does there will be many in our western land who will have a very different opinion of the present Minister of Agriculture from that previously held owing to declarations by himself and by the propagandists behind him.

There is a question that I would like to put to the Administration: