

the Interior has promised that we shall get our patents more easily, and he has also promised to build a terminal elevator at Fort William that is almost sure to be open for business in September, 1912.' These promises were made two years ago, but nothing has been done yet. The election was largely influenced by them, but I say the people on the prairies will not be fooled twice, however many times the people of Ontario may be. The present Minister of the Interior was there. He did not make any promises, he had not learned that business. Besides, he was Secretary of State then, and there was not so much that he could promise. But he had a subtle point which he held out, that is if The Winnipeg Telegram is not a liar. He said: You know that the Prime Minister promised you those lands; that is true, but do you think he would be likely to give them to an unwilling grantee? Do you think he would be likely to give them to people who said that they did not want them?

Mr. ROCHE: I said that to-day?

Mr. KNOWLES: I do not remember the hon. gentleman saying it, but I will read what he said on one occasion while the election was going on:

Hon. Dr. Roche said it was not to be expected that Hon. Mr. Borden would force this policy upon an unwilling government as represented by the present Administration—

That was the trouble.

—who have always advocated a contrary policy. Was it unreasonable, he asked, to request that if they desired to have their assets handed over to the provinces, that they should return a provincial government which has always advocated this?

Although this party boasted that they were the party of provincial rights, two ministers of the Crown go into the provinces, tell the people how to vote in a provincial election on local issues, and request them to send representatives to Regina who are favorable to Mr. Borden. The hon. Minister of the Interior says that it is a most reasonable thing for him to request the people to elect a Conservative Government in provincial affairs, because then probably they will get their lands. Words like that, spoken by men who have taken the oath as members of the Government and who sit about the Cabinet table to advise His Majesty on things appertaining to the state, and spoke in new provinces like Saskatchewan and Alberta, which are in a formative condition with

many people casting their ballots for the first time, hold out a bribe to the people, constitute the grossest interference with provincial rights that I have ever heard of. To 'request,' he said! The right hon. Prime Minister, in Brandon in 1911, says nothing about requesting a change of government and nothing about George Murray. He just throws himself right flat before the people and says: Here is one man who will go right out of public life, who is going to turn his whole back on public life, if immediately after being elected, he does not give the people back their land. Then his cabinet minister goes to Saskatchewan on the eve of the provincial elections and says to the people: We think it is reasonable that we request that you shall not put Scott back but that you shall put Haultain in power and then you will get your lands. But the people did not fall to the invitation.

Mr. ROGERS: They were not allowed.

Mr. KNOWLES: If the hon. gentleman had seen his homestead inspectors as we saw them on that occasion he would be the last to say that they were not allowed. They were allowed, and my hon. friends came up to Regina for the purpose of influencing the provincial elections. They lost their valuable time without any need whatever. I hope they will come every time we have a provincial election, stay longer, talk more and make more promises, because the people know what their promises amount to now. They like them to come anyway. They are gentlemen and citizens and we are pleased to see them, and no doubt, by a little direction from Winnipeg, or Ottawa, there would be people in Moosejaw or Regina who would get up another banquet. But as far as the effect upon the elections of 1912 was concerned, as shown by the results, we were certainly

10 p.m. not injured by the visit of these hon. gentlemen. I may say in all seriousness that such conduct on the part of the leaders of the Government party who, by matchless audacity, could say they were the party of provincial rights, in this attempted dictation to the people of Saskatchewan was the grossest interference with provincial rights. I repeat that this promise to restore the lands to the provinces was a bid for the people's votes, and it was a promise that the Conservative party never intended to carry out because the belief is that they never intended to carry it out and will never carry it out.