

that he makes no comment on his inconsistency and insincerity.

Mr. OLIVER: I might inform my hon. friend that he is in error; the hon. member for Medicine Hat is not in the province of the Premier of Saskatchewan.

Mr. ROCHE: The Premier of Alberta occupies the same position, because in the session of 1912 Premier Sifton introduced a resolution into the legislature of Alberta calling for a transfer to the province of the natural resources, including everything but the prairie lands. He really took the same position as Premier Scott. Since then he has signed a memorial to this Government asking for all the natural resources, including the prairie lands, which he thought at that time should be left in the possession of the Dominion Government. What has happened in the meantime? A Dominion election; the Conservative party came into power. He did not wish to embarrass his own political friends when they occupied the treasury benches; but he thinks he can raise a little party capital now against the present Government by making these unreasonable requests, these impossible demands, which he declared in so many words he would not sanction or countenance in 1911.

In 1912 Premier Scott said:—

The justification of the retention by the Dominion of the provincial lands, hinged wholly on the immigration question. The Dominion Government could not and would not carry on a colonization policy unless it held control of the lands. But Ottawa—

That is, since this Government came into power, and he is now giving his reasons for asking for these lands.

But Ottawa now calmly asserts that the colonization policy is carried on for all the provinces equally, for those which, like British Columbia, make a profit out of the public lands, as well as for the provinces whose lands are controlled by Ottawa. Such being the case, Saskatchewan should possess the public lands in addition to the advantage of a colonization policy maintained at Dominion expense.

This is the reason assigned by the Premier of Saskatchewan for making a request now for our colonization lands—because this Government, a Conservative Government, has the hardihood to invite immigration to other portions of the Dominion than the prairie provinces. It is true that we do not want to discriminate, that we do not wish to leave ourselves open to the accusation of attracting immigrants alone to the Canadian Northwest, and that we are endeavouring to do justice to every

province in Canada. We have established an immigration propaganda not confined to the northwest alone, but seeking to encourage labourers and domestic servants, those classes on which we are paying bonuses, to come to the Maritime provinces, to Quebec and Ontario, just the same as to the prairie provinces, because we have thought that in doing that we are showing fair play as between all the provinces of the Dominion. Premier Scott reverses his attitude, and claims now that they should have the agricultural land as well as all the other natural resources of the province. That is a very weak argument, I think you will all admit. I wish to quote some further remarks by Premier Scott. At Hanley on July 31, 1908, he said:

Speaking of the land arrangement, I am perfectly satisfied that Saskatchewan and Alberta are the best off provinces in the Dominion of Canada as a result of these terms.

That is the terms provided by the Autonomy Bill. At Lumsden on August 7, during a provincial campaign—I ask the hon. member for Medicine Hat to pay attention to this—he said:

There was not a public man except a bitter partisan who had opened his mouth to object who did not admit that Saskatchewan and Alberta had been made much better off by the federal administration of the lands than they would be, had the lands been under their control.

Now, surely the hon. member for Medicine Hat is not going to fly in the face of an expression like that and enrol himself among those who are extreme bitter partisans; for, as Premier Scott says, that is the only class of man in the West who would take exception to the financial terms provided in lieu of lands, and would prefer the restoration of the natural resources instead of the arrangement provided by the autonomy Acts. He also said in his speech of October 10, 1910:

When urging the principle of local ownership of the lands, I know that all I hoped to obtain was recognition of our rights of proprietary interest in them. I certainly never expected the actual transfer to the new provinces.

This was from the Premier of the province, and now he has the hardihood to ask this Government to transfer those lands.

The former Premier of this country (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) expressed his views on this question some years ago, and he states now that he stands by what he said at that time. Then he took a precedent from Sir John A. Macdonald, but he went for another precedent to a place where he frequently goes