

ment will not deny—the Winnipeg Telegram. I read it a year ago. It stated definitely that the lands would be restored and there was no outward reservation, whatever mental reservation there may have been; and my friend the Minister of Labour said that it was to be on fair terms. I think that for to-night he is Minister of Play again. He is 'playing' with this question. We all expected it would be on fair terms. Although he did not qualify his promise in Brandon to that extent, yet, if he had, to that extent the promise would be up to him. Why does he not bring down legislation and make good his pledge to restore the lands? Suppose he made a promise to British Columbia that he would increase their provincial subsidy under fair terms. Would it be fair for him, after they had elected him on the strength of that promise, to sit down for two or three years and then say, 'I think that promise is not binding on me because the man who happens to be Prime Minister of British Columbia has not had time to think out terms that would be fair?' The way the hon. gentleman clung, like a drowning man to a straw, to the statement of Hon. George Murray was almost pitiful. His case was terribly weak when he had to repeat over and over again that George Murray was Prime Minister of the province of Nova Scotia; he hung his whole case on George Murray who probably knows nothing about the question. His election promise is still on his shoulders, no matter what Mr. Murray may have said. I think one reason why this election promise has not been fulfilled—and I say it in the presence of the Prime Minister—is this: The people of Alberta and Saskatchewan have not risen to the bait. We had a provincial election in Saskatchewan in 1912. I keep carefully in my mind the date when the Minister of Public Works was in Regina. It was on June 10, 1912. I always think of June 11, because that is the date which appears in the Winnipeg Telegram, but the real blow out was on the night of June 10. An election was coming on in about a month and there is a fine picture of the Minister of Public Works on the front page of The Winnipeg Telegram of June 11. It shows him leaning on his hand like this; he looks as if he was just tired out, and reminds me of a gentleman who wanted to have his picture taken as a blacksmith. The photographer came along and snapped him just like the Minister of Public Works appears in The Telegram leaning his head on his hand. I think the Minister of Public Works had been

[Mr. Knowles.]

working at the anvil so long, beating out promises that he was absolutely tired out. The Minister of the Interior is represented beside him but he is able to hold his head up—he did not make so many promises. Let me tell the hon. Minister of Public Works—a good tempered gentleman, but I must tell him the truth however painful it is to me—that he has not kept the promises he made, I do not say he broke his word; fortunately for him, after making all these promises, he got out of the Department of the Interior, and I suppose he would say it is up to his successor to deliver the goods, but the fact is the promises were made for election purposes. How he did promise the homesteaders that he would do all in his power—and 'his power' in the West is next thing to saying the power of Omnipotence itself—to take away the terrible interest that the Liberal Government had saddled pre-emptions with. Where has 'his power' been working? It must have been working very quietly and unseen if at all. I will read what he said:

Another condition I find which to my mind works a hardship to the settler, is an unjust tax upon him, and that is in the case of the pre-emption, where he is being asked to pay interest on the cost of that pre-emption from the date he enters on it. In my judgment that is a mistake. Although, mark you, I am not making you a definite promise that I shall be able to relieve you of that regulation, I might tell you that this is being investigated, and from the information that I have to date, I believe the condition is one that we may be able to remove.

I will here say that if I have the power, and find myself able to do it, I will raise that restriction and remove that regulation, thereby relieving the settlers of a burden that I believe to be unnecessary to the development of the country.

He made a great many more promises that night. I remember how his promises used to stare us in the face in Regina. When you met Conservatives they would say, 'Oh, Mr. Rogers said so and so, so there is no doubt about it.' Promises have their effect, there is no getting away from that. Homestead inspectors went everywhere telling of the promise of the Minister of Public Works to remove the interest on pre-emptions. He was also going to make it easier for the homesteader to get his patent. In the future they would not have so much ploughing to do; they must put up a little fence and keep a few cows and then they would get their patents. As a result of these promises a great many people said: 'I am going over to the Conservative party, because the Minister of