

tawa is labelled Grit or Tory ; but it does make a great difference to you whether that Government shall do right or do wrong by you. I said to them : Gentlemen, you have been persistently misrepresented at Ottawa for the last fifteen years ; the men whom you sent as your delegates always failed to tell the House of Commons and to tell the people of the country what the disabilities were under which you laboured. I said, further : Gentleman, if you send me to Ottawa, whether it be a Conservative Government or a Liberal Government that is in power, I shall stand up and tell them what I think your wants are. It is because of that pledge that I address this House to-night.

An hon. MEMBER. What about Bob Watson ?

Mr. RICHARDSON. A worthy member calls my attention to the fact that there was an exception to the Manitoba representation in the case of the Hon. Robert Watson. I am pleased to stand corrected, because all will bear witness that Mr. Watson was a faithful representative of Manitoba in this Parliament

I am here, in some respects, in a different position from many other members. I had a Patron opposed to me until a short time before the election. He, however, was a Conservative Patron, and when it was pointed out to him that if he remained in the field he would jeopardise the chances of the Conservative candidate—my opponent, he good-naturedly decided to retire from the contest, and leave a straight fight between the president of the Conservative Association of Manitoba and myself. I said to the Patrons, and I said to the Liberals, and to all who attended my meetings : Gentlemen, I am not obliged to make any professions with regard to Patronism, but I pledge you my word that if you elect me to the House of Commons I, at least, will be as good a Patron as will be sent to the House from any part of Canada ; and I hope, before I have concluded, Mr. Speaker, that you and the House will agree with me that I have redeemed my pledge in that regard.

I want to say a word with regard to the west. It has been the custom for many years to regard the people of the west as chronic kickers, and daily I hear the epithet used. It has been the custom to consider that we in the west are always desiring more than the people of the east consider to be our share. Well, Sir, the people of the west have laboured under great disabilities, and to these I wish to address myself briefly. I consider it to be my duty to speak of these things, because we in the west who have been pioneers, we in the west who have borne the burden and heat of the day, are but trustees for eastern Canada for the care and development of that country. We have not had that de-

velopment in the west which we should have had. I was pained indeed to hear the Hon. Mr. Sifton, now Minister of the Interior, at a banquet tendered him in the city of Winnipeg, declare that during the last ten years as many people had left the province of Manitoba as had come into it. That is a deplorable condition of affairs, and it behooves the members of this Parliament to turn their attention to it, and to find out what the reasons for it are. When we think of the glowing pictures that were drawn in regard to the progress of that country some twelve or fifteen years ago, we must all agree that its condition to-day is a great disappointment to our people. The people of that country endure many hardships. They have no coal worth speaking of, and wood is scarce. In the severe cold of the winter many a farmer is obliged to drive twenty or twenty-five miles for a load of wood. It is all very well to talk about the people of the west being constantly complaining, but I am sure the House will agree with me that they have many reasons to complain, and if they had not, Manitoba would now be one of the most thickly populated provinces of the Dominion, for it certainly has rare natural advantages, and a soil than which there is none more fertile on the face of the earth. Notwithstanding that, it must be confessed with humiliation that our province has not made the progress we expected. The country is inland, far removed from eastern Canada, and is therefore entitled to special consideration. It has suffered very severely from heavy railway freights, and unfortunately there seems to be little prospect of obtaining relief in that respect. Many of us have come to think that Manitoba and the west should receive special treatment, and that it might be the part of wisdom for this Government to deal in a particular manner with the province of Manitoba, even if we were to go the length of giving it a special tariff.

My own view with regard to the settlement of that country is that the best immigration policy is to make the settlers happy and contented. My deep and abiding conviction is that 5,000 happy, contented and prosperous settlers in that province are worth more than the expenditure of \$1,000,000 a year to bring immigrants from foreign countries. If you do not make the people who live there happy and contented, they will leave the country, and they will write to their friends warning them against going there. I repeat, Sir, that the true immigration policy is to make the settlers of the west contented and happy. It is not our country, Mr. Speaker ; it is your country ; it belongs to the Dominion of Canada at large. The Dominion of Canada has a very great stake in that country ; and in considering this question, I think all true statesmen and friends of Canada will be disposed to meet together and devise means for the development and up-building of that