

of the lands to political favourites who to-day sit behind and beside, affluent in the result of these favours they have got from my right hon. friend and from the members of his cabinet.

The Finance Minister journeyed to Truro and he journeyed back. He told them several wonderful things down there, but one of the wonderful things that he did tell them was that during their regime lands, which, when they came in, were worth only \$2 an acre, had gone up to \$6—actually gone up to \$6 an acre. But there were several things, Mr. Speaker, that he did not tell them. He did not tell them what had been done with these lands, which, in 1902 and 1903, were selling at a minimum of \$5 and \$6 an acre; he did not tell him that a colleague of his, the Minister of the Interior, that strong man that my right hon. friend, looking over this whole Dominion, searched out in the west and brought here to set up as one in his cabinet, had taken 250,000 acres of homestead lands along a stretch of 115 miles of built and running railway, and which had been reported upon by his own officials as lands of quality and capacity, and allowed them to be—sold?—no, simply looted in favour of a gentleman who supported him in the west and that gentleman's associates at \$1 an acre, payable, half in scrip and that these gentlemen, before two years had passed, had sold these lands for \$2,000,000 or more and had put a million and three quarters in their own pockets and the pockets of their associates. He did not tell the people of Colchester that, nor did he tell them how one Robbins floated in to the Northwest on a summer's day without capital, friends, or affluence, made an application to the obliging Minister of the Interior for 380,000 acres of land upon which he should not pay a penny until 1910, got the franchise within six weeks or so, handed it over to his dear friends and the dear friends of the Minister of the Interior, Messrs. Hitchcock and J. D. McGregor, who put it alongside 100,000 acres of an irrevocable grazing lease for which they had to pay two cents an acre, and who, with Robbins, in six months floated a company and made a profit of \$800,000 in stock or money. He did not tell them that. My right hon. friend does not tell us that. He thinks that this platform is not plain enough. I think it is plain enough. I think that the people of this country think it is plain enough and the Liberal-Conservative party, let me tell my right hon. friend when they build a platform, build it not only to get in on, but to stand on after they get in. But, what is the use of going over more? These are samples from the platform and I think they indicate sufficiently plainly in common English and the way in which they are phrased what we propose and what I believe this country

Mr. FOSTER.

will stand by us in proposing and carrying out as a public policy.

My right hon. friend said: Oh, but this is only one man's policy. Why did he not call the party together? That is what he should have done. Well, that is a good deal as you look at it. There are two ways of doing a thing. One is to call your party together from east, west, north and south, have the faithful here, one thousand, two thousand, three thousand, on sweltering summer days, go in and move amongst them as their leaders, make them the solemn pledges of public men, matured, wise and experienced, place these pledges in a public platform of so many sections, declare by unanimous vote that that is the policy of your party, and pledge them by your word of honour that when you get in that is what you will carry out. Having done all that in the light of day, above board, dismiss that convention, send them to their homes and then refuse to carry out a single pledge that you have made to that convention after you called it together. That is one way. That is the way of my right hon. friend. Another way is to build up your platform out of your experience and the needs of the country, back it up by votes in parliament on which there is perfect unanimity amongst the Liberal-Conservatives—as more than half of these clauses in this platform have been backed up in this parliament—back it up in by-election after by-election and back it up by placing it before the people of the country from one end to the other with scarcely a dissenting voice. I ask my right hon. friend if he was perfectly fair in that. The leader of this party has gone through this country from one end to the other. The audiences to which he addressed himself, the newspapers that were friendly and those that were not friendly—even my hon. friend is one of the auditors and readers—and I suppose hundreds upon hundreds of thousands of people have read that platform and have studied it within the last six or eight months. What is the body of opposition that is shown up against it? My right hon. friend can only, in one single instance, bring the example that upon one point, the 'Gazette,' a very excellent paper in the province of Quebec in the city of Montreal, did not see eye to eye with my hon. friend on the railway policy. Well, my right hon. friend must be forgetful in regard to this matter. Does he see eye to eye with the members of his own cabinet on that point? Does he see eye to eye with the new ambitious rising, and I hope also, successful Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Graham)? Does he? He should read his speeches. The speeches of a new minister always have to be scanned. Older ministers have a certain license. You expect them to make mistakes but you will not