

Labour Candidate Changes Front.

The Prime Minister has spoken of a change of front, but the right hon. gentleman has on his own side of the House a most remarkable instance of a change of front in the person of the hon. gentleman from Nanaimo, who came here as a great champion of labor.

Mr. Ralph Smith—So he is to-day.

Mr. Fowler—Formerly the hon. gentleman (Mr. Ralph Smith) roared like a lion rampant in the cause of labor, but to-day he cooes like a dove. What is the reason for the change?

Mr. Ralph Smith—Does my hon. friend want an answer to that question?

Mr. Fowler—Why, I am going to give the answer myself. I am not going to take a manufactured answer. I will give the one and the only true answer. (Cheers.)

Mr. Ralph Smith—Will my hon. friend permit me to answer his question?

Experienced Laurier's Sunny Smile.

Mr. Fowler—The change must be because he has been brought under the influence of the Prime Minister, and has had an opportunity of distributing among his friends the patronage of the district he represents, and also seeing in his mind's eye some future promotion for himself. He has climbed as high as the labour organizations could put him, but he is ambitious—and a man is not worth much if he is not ambitious. My hon. friend from Nanaimo is ambitious to change from the very ordinary chair and cramped quarters which he occupies to a much more sumptuous chair and a much wider sphere in a distant part of this great Dominion of ours. I hope the hon. gentleman (Mr. Ralph Smith) will reach the goal of his ambition.

Mr. Ralph Smith—I put a fair question to my hon. friend (Mr. Fowler). Does he mean to say that I have been asking for privileges such as he describes?

Mr. Lancaster—He says you hope for them.

Mr. Ralph Smith—I put a fair question: Does my hon. friend (Mr. Fowler) mean to state in this House that I have been asking for the privileges he describes?

Self Evident Proposition.

Mr. Fowler—Why, the hon. gentleman does not have to ask; the hon. gentleman has made himself so useful to the government in drawing towards it the labor vote that there is nothing in the gift of the government which they would not be only too glad to give him in recognition of the splendid service he has performed for them as a party man. We were told by the hon. member for Cape Breton (Mr. Johnston) and by the hon. member for Nanaimo (Mr. Ralph Smith) that there was a universal psalm of praise sent up to the Minister of Labor because he introduced this great bill. They told us that the coal miners, whom they represented specially, were in favor of this bill, but now we see the other side of the shield, for here is my hon. friend from Kootenay (Mr. Galliber), who represents a large number of miners, and he voices their protest against this legislation. (Cheers.)

Workmen Object to Labor Bill.

There is also my hon. friend from Calgary (Mr. M. S. McCarthy), who represents a mining constituency, and he voices the protest of the United Mine Workers Association. There is, therefore, not that universal acceptance of this bill which the Prime Minister, the Minister of Labor, the member for Nanaimo and the member for Cape Breton tell us there is.