

come to until a few moments ago not to take part in this debate. The hon. member for Marquette, who until recent months was a colleague of my own in this Government, left the Administration on a question of policy, and is now a private member as a consequence. In passing, it is worthy of note that though some others have resigned from the Administration, feeling that they had performed as much service to their country as they could, the hon. member for Marquette alone has left the Cabinet because of a difference in point of policy. That is, possibly just worthy of reflection on the part of the leader of the Opposition, who seems to think that when ministers resign, not on questions of principle at all and still support the Administration, it is a sign of disintegration and decay. The hon. member for Marquette has, through some months, so conducted himself as now to be regarded as the head of what is termed the Farmers' Movement in Canada, a movement which he objects to having called a class movement, which he describes as a national movement, but which, if it is of the character and scope he attributes to it, might in my humble estimation very well change its name. I do not know that it is of very great importance just how you describe the movement or the party; names do not count for a great deal. But I should think that a class movement was one that was originated by a class; and having a very simple and ordinary mind I should conclude that the farmers of this country were a class. If this movement was not originated by the farmers as a class, by whom was it originated? I do not know that any other class in Canada had anything to say in the formation of the platform upon which it now appeals. That platform is now a completed fact. It became a completed fact at the dictation and after the sole consideration of the class that originated the movement.

It is true the leader (Mr. Crerar) who has just sat down states that they are ready to welcome the votes to office of all and sundry in this country. No doubt in the world they are, but does that make it any more than a class movement, being originated as such? However, that matters little. It does matter though what the platform is. It does matter what course of policy that movement calls to have adopted in this Dominion? That is of first and vital consequence? It does matter as well that any Government in office in this Dominion shall be of such a general and cosmopolitan char-

acter as may fairly be said to represent all classes of the people. The hon. member for Marquette (Mr. Crerar), when he was confronted with one of the necessary consequences of any movement of this kind—the first outcome of the political phase of this movement in Canada, being the election of what is known as a farmer's government in Ontario, and the fact that it contains eight farmers, two labour men and one lawyer—answered that it was just as representative of all classes of the Ontario people, containing eight farmers and one lawyer, as the previous administration, as he said, which contained eight lawyers and one farmer. I would have expected an hon. gentleman, who had attained to the high position that the hon. member for Marquette has, to see that his statements to this House, however much he might be tempted to indulge in repartee that seemed momentarily effective, would bear some resemblance to the facts. Would he be justified in making that retort if the previous Ontario Government had not contained eight lawyers and had contained more than one farmer? What would be thought of his statement if it should be the fact that the Government contained among its number less than half lawyers? Yet, that is the truth; there were five lawyers in that administration and there were six men of other callings. Was it quite right, or was it treating this House fairly that the hon. gentleman should have made the retort that he did? There was in that Administration in Ontario more than one man who had nothing else to do but farm, who did nothing else and who had done nothing else. I do not know how many it may have contained who were occupied in other things as well as on the farm. I do not know that that makes very much difference if the interests of all the people are taken care of, but facts are facts and should be respected as such.

In this connection, let me remind the hon. gentleman that a Government for which he has great respect, and which I for the moment do not attack at all—the Government of the province of Manitoba, a Government from which he holds back the hand of slaughter of those who follow him—contains no individual at all actually engaged in farming, and Manitoba is probably more of a farming province than the province of Ontario, proportionately speaking. I do not say that this is a charge against the Government of Manitoba but I do say that his profession in this respect reflects somewhat on the consistency of the hon. member for Marquette.