

contrary, very unfair terms have been offered. I wish to ask the hon. member for Edmonton now if he thinks these natural resources should be transferred to these various provinces, and that the provinces should in the meantime be allowed to retain the financial advantages conferred upon them in 1905?

Mr. OLIVER: That is not the question before the House. The question before the House is that the Prime Minister made certain promises which it is up to him to fulfil.

Mr. CROTHERS: I quite admit that, but there is no evidence that he ever broke those promises. There is no evidence that a fair proposition was ever made to him. The proposals made by the three provinces were unfair, and the Government of this country is perfectly warranted in refusing to accept such unfair terms. It seems to me, as I said at the outset, that we are wasting a lot of time over nothing.

Mr. W. E. KNOWLES (Moosejaw): The discussion which has taken place to-day in regard to this matter, while it may not, in all probability, be crystallized into legislation, will, I am sure, be for the good of the country by reminding the people of the broken promises of the present Government. It is a good illustration of nerve, the way in which our hon. friends opposite in the most flamboyant fashion possible tell me that the Prime Minister has kept every other promise and surely we might overlook this one broken promise. Let us look at a few promises the Prime Minister made before coming into office. If we are asked whether they have been fulfilled or not we will not be so sure that our right hon. friends are so correct in their confidence that all the promises excepting one have been kept. My hon. friend who has just spoken is an outstanding illustration of a broken promise. Before the last election he went into the county of Elgin and told the people that if the Laurier Government were defeated and the Borden Government put into power the unfortunate farmers who had invested money in the Farmers Bank would be reimbursed. The people in the West believed the present Prime Minister when he promised their lands would be restored, and many voted for him for that reason. The farmers of Elgin believed, unfortunately, the present Minister of Labour in the statement that the Farmers Bank subscribers would be reimbursed and they voted for the present Minister of Labour, member for one of the Elgin seats. That

[Mr. Crothers.]

promise has not been carried out but has been trifled with and played with.

Mr. EDWARDS: Is the hon. gentleman aware that before the close of the last session the Prime Minister pledged his word to bring down legislation in regard to the Farmers Bank this session.

Mr. KNOWLES: When?

Mr. EDWARDS: Just before the close of the last session.

Mr. KNOWLES: That he would reimburse the farmers who invested in the Farmers Bank?

Mr. EDWARDS: That he would bring down legislation this session in regard to the Farmers Bank.

Mr. KNOWLES: I did not say that the Minister of Labour stated that the Prime Minister would, after three years, bring down certain unknown legislation. I did say that he had stated that the Conservative Government if put in power, would reimburse the farmers who had invested in the Farmers Bank. I am not aware that the Prime Minister had stated that he would, during this session, bring down legislation definitely and absolutely reimbursing the farmers who put their money into the Farmers Bank.

Mr. MURPHY: He repudiated the Minister of Labour.

Mr. KNOWLES: I am glad to be informed on that, although I do not think there is much necessity of repudiating the Minister of Labour. But even if such a promise was made last session it is just an illustration of the way the hon. gentlemen, when asked to take any promise, will swallow it and then just after the election is over vomit them all up again. The hon. gentlemen got into power largely upon promises that if they were returned to power they would bring in legislation that we overcome all the evils and vices of the Ne Temere decree and they got many hundreds of votes. I do not know if they got any in the vicinity of Grey county or not, but they got many because of the belief of a certain party in certain portions of Ontario that the Conservative party, if they came into power, would bring in legislation that would do away with the vices and evils of the Ne Temere decree. Did they do that? Was there any honesty in their promise or were they again fooling and befuddling the people? I have no hesitation in saying that in that instance again the Conservatives were deliberately making promises that they never expected to be