

is very nearly over, the purchase of farm machinery for the season has been made, and the reduction of the duty which will take effect during the coming winter will be just as beneficial to the people of the North-west as if it were made now. I merely make that statement in order that the House may be thoroughly aware of the deep insight and the thorough knowledge which the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) has of the agricultural interests of the North-west. Now, having trespassed so much on the time of the House, I will merely say another word. It was not merely the question of the duty on agricultural implements which caused the change of feeling in the district of Alberta, amounting to something over 2,000 votes, comparing the two elections of 1891 and 1896. You cannot imagine that so small a cause would produce such a very considerable difference. There are other gyves and fetters binding down the settlers in the North-west, besides the matter of the tariff. There is the land policy of the late Government, and there is the railway policy of the late Government, and I can tell the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) that these questions affect us in our part of the country, at any rate, even more than do the provisions of the tariff. And, although we were lying wounded by the roadside, and although we were bound and tied, we obtained no relief from the late Administration, and it was because we could see no prospect of any relief from that Government—it was for these reasons even more than because of our objection to the tariff that we voted against Conservative rule. We look to the new Government with just as much confidence in these particulars, as we look to them for relief in the matter of the tariff. We look for relief for the North-west in all matters that shall be for the benefit of the North-west. We look for a policy which shall be in the interests of the people of the North-west, and not a policy that shall be, as it has been, in the interest of monopolies there. The North-west for the people and not for the monopolies—that is the policy we voted on, and that is the policy we voted for. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) has alluded to the disappointment that has taken hold of every person in the North-west, except the strongest party men. Well, I can tell him that I am not a strong party man, and he knows it. I can tell him that I am not bound to support the leader of the present Government, unless his policy is in the interests of the North-west. I can assure him, repeating what I said before, that the people of the North-west, being reasonable people, are willing to give the new Government a reasonable time to bring forward necessary reforms, and that our confidence in that Government is not shaken because they have shown good and sound judgment at the present time by refusing to act hastily for the purpose of making a little political capital.

They are above that kind of business, and I for one, as a citizen of Canada, am proud of them that they are. Now, the hon. member alluded, I think to an unnecessary extent, as I think did also those speakers who preceded him on that side of the House, to the disappointed ambition of members on this side. They spoke of how this, that and the other member had worked hard in the interest of the party, and had not received any reward. These gentlemen are evidently measuring other people's corn in their half bushel. The gentlemen whose ideas of the requirements of Government rise no higher than the filling of places are no men to rule this country. They have ruled it too long, as is evident from this very position they take in regard to that matter. If they know nothing of government except the holding of office, then the less they know of government the better for this country, and thank goodness that they know so little of it now.

In regard to the last matter which the hon. member spoke of, the school question, I certainly agree with him as to the undesirability of arousing racial and religious prejudices. I do not know how long the hon. member will hold that position. I do not know whether, if a vote were taken on the matter at the present time, he would be found in his usual position of speaking one way and voting the other; but I really fear that something like that might occur, for certainly what he has said here to-night does not accord with the circumstances connected with his own election campaign. As a matter of fact, every effort was made on behalf of the hon. gentleman in the line of religious and race prejudices; and while we must, of course, give all credit to the clerk of the court who did the final act of electing the hon. gentleman, at the same time, there is no doubt—and he dare not deny it—that great credit is due to the gentlemen who did arouse, and who were imported into the constituency specially to arouse, race and religious prejudices on his behalf. We may say that it is, in the first place, to the action of that official, in the next place to the religious campaigners, and, in the third place, to the horde of Government officials holding places in his constituency, that the hon. gentleman owes his position in this House, and his claim to speak on behalf of the people of the North-west.

Mr. QUINN moved the adjournment of the debate.

The PRIME MINISTER (Mr. Laurier). My hon. friend is a new member, and I cannot, assuredly, refuse his demand. But it is only half-past ten, and if we are to have a conclusion to this debate, we shall have to sit later to-morrow.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

The PRIME MINISTER (Mr. Laurier) moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 10.30 p.m.