

competition, and the highest tender received for these buildings and the whole section, was \$2,000. The Government thought very properly, I think, that it was so small a sum compared with the immense amount that had been expended, that they did not sell that property to any of the tenderers. Now, Mr. Speaker, I think that experience goes to show that the Government were justified in thinking that if a large area of land were given to any one individual, it might approach nearer to reimbursing the money they had expended in such public buildings as were erected on the farm at Calgary. However, it seems very strange to me to hear my hon. friend from West Huron (Mr. Cameron), and my hon. friend from South Huron (Sir Richard Cartwright), say anything as to the possibility of any gentleman making any money out of the lands in the North-West, when we so well know that these very gentlemen took advantage—I do not say improperly at all—to speculate in lands in the North-West to a very large extent, under the land regulations, which, I believe, were in operation during the *regime* of the hon. member for East York—

Mr. MACKENZIE. No.

Mr. ORTON. Under Mr. Mills, as Minister of the Interior, when the regulations were somewhat as follows: That anybody could buy land at \$1 an acre, and pay for it at the rate of 10 cents an acre for ten years. If I am properly informed, those hon. gentlemen together obtained no less than 30,000 acres of these lands—the most valuable lands in southern Manitoba; and they sold those lands at \$9 an acre very shortly afterwards, realizing the very handsome sum of something like \$200,000—so I am informed. I think that when these gentlemen have made so large an amount of money themselves, they ought not to be so very jealous if a few friends on this side of the House undertake to speculate in that country. I know very well a great many of those gentlemen who have speculated in that country have lost money by it. It is well known to-day that many people in Ontario, both friends and opponents of the Government, who have invested in lands in that country, have lost very seriously by it—though I hope it will not be so with these gentlemen. But it seems to me to be a fact that lands to-day are not as saleable in that country as they were under the boom, though I believe they are gradually improving. Though a healthy state of affairs is beginning to exist in that country, I think at the same time that good lands south of the railway, prime lands, could not under the present depression bring a larger sum than \$3 per acre. And when we recollect that those lands in question are situated so very far away from any possible market, it does not seem to me that the sum is so extremely small, and I think the Government, on the whole, have made a very good sale.

Mr. CAMERON (Huron). The hon. gentleman has stated that my hon. friend in front of me (Sir Richard Cartwright) and myself speculated in western lands under the Government of my hon. friend from East York. I wish to state that I never bought an acre of land while my hon. friend from East York was in power—not an acre of public land.

Mr. ORTON. I did not say you did.

Mr. CAMERON. I wish to state to the hon. gentleman that his information is incorrect—that I never had an interest in 30,000 acres, nor one-half 30,000 acres, of land. I wish to state to the hon. gentleman, further, that, to the best of my recollection, all the lands I ever bought in the North-West directly from the Government, were two sections, and I bought then from the Government of the hon. gentleman who sits before me on the other side of the House. I wish to state to the hon. gentleman, for his information, in order that he may be better

Mr. ORTON.

informed in the future, that if I did buy land in the North-West, out of which I am glad to say I made a little honest money, I bought a large portion of it from a son of the colleague of the hon. gentleman opposite, who was in the Government of Canada for a number of years. I bought it of him second-hand; I paid a fair price for it; and, of course, as lands went up, I made a little honest money out of it. Now, I do not think the hon. gentleman has any ground of complaint against me. I do not think he ought to have made that statement without being better informed as to what the real facts were. I am sure if he had known that the lands that I bought were bought from a son of a colleague of the present First Minister, he would not have said anything on the subject at all. I bought no lands from the Government except two sections; I bought no lands from the Mackenzie Government at all; whatever land I did buy there, I bought second-hand, and perhaps to better advantage than some hon. gentlemen on the other side have bought. I did not buy any timber limits at \$5 a square mile and sell them for \$2,000. The hon. First Minister complains that I have made a statement of the facts on making this motion, whereas I ought to have waited until the papers came down, and then have made my statement. Sir, I have tried that over and over again in this House. There were, at least, twenty motions made by me last Session in connection with the administration of public affairs in the North-West, and to this day there is scarcely one of these returns brought down. It might suit the purpose of hon. gentlemen opposite for these motions to be made without a word of comment, and then wait for the papers coming down until Parliament is about closing. There were, perhaps, a hundred motions made last Session, most of them having reference to the affairs in the North-West, and not a single one of them has been submitted to Parliament as yet.

SIR RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I may also request the attention of the House for one moment. I am not going to trouble the House with any narrative of my private affairs. Those affairs are my own business, and not the business of my hon. friends opposite. But I will just say this, as a matter which is due to myself, and, perhaps, due to the hon. gentleman, as he has alluded to it—that I bought no land at all from the Government of the hon. gentlemen opposite, and I should have considered myself guilty of a very gross dereliction of duty, if I had bought any land at all while I was a member of the Cabinet. What I did do, if the hon. gentleman desires to know, was to purchase some lands on which the Government, I believe, had first mortgage, and which I took good care to pay for promptly. That is all the transactions I had with the Government—and I do not think that any one would suspect the Government of the hon. First Minister of giving me any undue or unfair favours.

Mr. ORTON. I did not accuse the hon. gentlemen of purchasing land from the Government of which they were supporters at that time, nor did I accuse them of buying land from the present Government. All I did state was that they had bought from a number of individuals large areas of land bought from the Government under the regulations in force under the previous and present Government for a short time; and we know very well that a great many in that country bought land at 10 cents per acre, as a first instalment, at \$1 per acre. These gentlemen were very sharp in looking up individuals all over the country and securing land from them, and they made lots of money. I congratulated them on the fact, and I said, under those circumstances, they should not be so jealous of other individuals who paid a comparative good price to the Government for lands and made some money out of them.

SIR RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. The hon. gentleman stated that the hon. member behind me and myself had