

almost an entire failure. In the year 1866, there were 72 settlers placed on the colonization roads, at an expense to the country of \$63,000—or about \$900 for each settler. During the whole period of ten or twelve years, during which these roads had been carried on, there had been 1,972 settlers, at a total cost of about a million of dollars. And of these many had gone away. Of the 405 settlers on the Hastings road, he was credibly informed that not more than from 100 to 150 now remained. These were startling facts, and proved that it was folly to attempt to colonize a country which was unfit for settlement, and which was yielding us incalculable wealth in its pine timber. Not only did it cost a million dollars to place these settlers, but probably eight or ten millions more in the injury done to the timber by fires and otherwise. The extent and value of the timber trade was shown by the figures of the trade and navigation returns. During the ten and a half years just gone by, the amount received for produce of the forest was \$109,541,343—about equal to the whole exports of our agricultural productions, animals and their produce, &c. A branch of industry which brought into the country every month a million of dollars in gold, was one worthy the best care and attention of the Commissioner of Crown Lands. If the hon. gentleman now occupying that position devoted weeks and months to studying the interests of the lumber trade, he would be the first Commissioner of Crown Lands who had shown that interest in the trade which its magnitude and importance deserved. Mr. Scott then read a statement, showing the expenditure by the lumberers in the timber districts, amounting annually to about \$4,000,000 for wages of men and teams, and \$8,000,000 for provisions, &c.; in all, about \$12,000,000. About half this vast trade belongs to Ontario; for he found that the quantity of timber exported from the late Province of Canada was supplied in about equal proportions by Upper and Lower Canada. If properly husbanded, enough revenue could be raised from our timber for the next twenty-five years to pay all the expenses of the Government, and leave a large margin besides. Such a trade surely demanded the earnest and thoughtful care and attention of this House and of the Government, and should not be lightly struck at by those who did not understand its workings. It had done more for the settlement of the country, ten times over, than all that had been done by the Government. Mr. Scott proceeded to enumerate various advantages derived by the country from the lumber trade, drawing special attention to the large traffic it furnished the railways. He then quoted from the Trade and Navigation Returns of England, to show that while from 1856 to 1863, the average annual value of Canadian timber received at English ports was £2,750,731 sterling, the value of other exports from Canada received in England, consisting of cereals, &c., was but £1,965,891 sterling. He then pointed out the importance of the lumber trade as an element in the question of reciprocal trade with the United States, and as furnishing a powerful inducement to the Americans to negotiate for a renewal of the treaty. In order to render the limits available, he explained that much improvement in streams and roads had to be effected. On one claim in this way £80,000 had been expended. This would show hon. gentlemen the extensive interests involved in the question. As to his (Mr. Scott's) views in reference to the future management of the lumber trade, he thought that if the Government would allow these licenses to extend over fifteen or twenty years, the resources of the country would be husbanded. Where the tenure was uncertain and very limited, undoubtedly there were incentives to laying waste timber limits—at all events there would be few attempts at husbanding. Under the present Crown Land system of compelling the licentiate to work his limits or otherwise pay large bonuses, he was forced to go on all the limits and work them to the detriment of the limits and overstocking of the market. He (Mr. Scott) would even go so far as to limit the licentiate in the quantity to be produced yearly, and contended that such a plan would tend to the benefit of the lumberer and of the country at large. He concluded by expressing his gratification at the general remarks of the Commissioner of Crown Lands.

Mr. CUMBERLAND also desired to add his congratulations to the Commissioner. A more lucid, argumentative, good sound common sense speech on so difficult a subject, he (Mr. Cumberland) had never heard. But his attention had been struck by omissions of any breadth of statement on the subject of mineral lands. On the question of the administration of the department, alluded to by the Commissioner, he (Mr. Cumberland) could not quite agree with the Commissioner. He (Mr. Cumberland) could