

Scott had been placed at the head of any other department of the Government. These were the grounds why he took it upon himself to state the other evening that he considered Mr. Scott's appointment highly objectionable. If he had been appointed to any other position in the Government he would not have objected. He would state further that he had said that he believed Mr. Scott was the paid agent of the lumber interest. He has been the past defender of the lumber interest, and he believed that when he came here with a delegation of lumbermen, he was here feeling it peculiarly and essentially his duty and interest to aid them. He charged Mr. Scott with having endeavoured to secure the license, and in governments to extend the license, and in one case he had succeeded, though not with the late Government. Mr. Scott had gone to Quebec and succeeded in getting his demand satisfied. He believed that the honourable gentleman had gone into the Government believing that he would be enabled to secure the extension of the lumber license for 21 years. Shortly after returning from Quebec Mr. Scott had come with a deputation to Toronto and met the Government. On account of the manner in which he argued the interests of the lumbermen, he believed that he was their paid counsel. He understood that that gentleman had received a large sum of money for his professional services in the interests of the lumbermen. If he went to Quebec and received a handsome fee for his services, and then accompanied the deputation to the Ontario Government on the same mission, it was not unfair to suppose that he was again paid. The only difference in the result of the two missions was that in Quebec they gained their object, while in Ontario they did not. He contended that if Mr. Scott was so interested, and employed on behalf of the lumbermen, it was highly improper that he should have been placed in a position to judge of those interests. Another question which he referred to was the fact that Mr. Scott in Ottawa, in order to magnify his own services, as Mr. Carling claimed, had said that he knew it was the intention of the late Government to cancel the license of the lumbermen and put the limits up to public auction. This statement had been so reported in the organ of the hon. gentleman.

Mr. SCOTT rose and stated that in 1867 Mr. Carling had said that the Government could at any time cancel all the licenses. This he had stated in the presence of Mr. Gillmore, Mr. Cameron, and others interested in the lumber business.

Mr. RICHARDS said that he had expressed it as his opinion that, according to law, the timber licenses could only be granted for one year. He thought that the late Government had dealt much more fairly with that interest than this Government would. With reference to the statement that he had received from lumbermen in the lobby of this House, he could say that he disclaimed ever having treated any deputations discourteously. Speaking of the cry for party government, he said that the cry did not amount to anything. He contended that there was no great question of principle involved in the questions coming before the House at the present time, and saw no reason why the member for East Toronto, or South Bruce, or himself could not vote consistently on such an Act, for instance, as the Assessment Act. After again repeating that he considered Mr. Scott was placed in the wrong office, he resumed his seat.

Mr. CAMERON said his recollection of the charges he had made against the Commissioner was this: That he had lobbied improperly while he was Speaker, for the purpose of inducing gentlemen friendly to the Government to vote against them; and that the agent or solicitor of any particular interest should not be the judge of that interest.

Mr. BLAKE read the charges as reported, and then proceeded to reply to the remarks of the member for Niagara. He hoped they would survive the loss of the respect of that hon. gentleman. That gentleman had stated in the first place that, according to the law, the timber licenses could not be renewed, and afterwards stated that Orders in Council were passed containing specific conditions of renewal. So that this stickler for the law had, according to his own showing, violated the law. He had not renewed the licenses at the proper season, and had told the lumbermen that it would be a breach of the law to renew them; but now his excuse was that the licenses were not renewed because he was engaged in preparing new regulations, and the lumber trade had to wait upon him. The observations of the member for Niagara exemplified very forcibly the extent to which the system of defaming the character of public men had reached. He (Mr. Blake) had already stated that it was the bounden duty of a man who had made accusations, when they had turned out to be untrue, to retract them. But what had the hon. gentleman done? In the face of the positive denial of his hon. friend that he had never been employed by the Ontario lumber interest, he had to-night stated his belief that he was their paid advocate. This course was wholly unwarrantable and unjustifiable; though all the while acknowledging that the only evidence he had was with reference to an isolated case in connection with the Quebec Government and with Quebec lumbermen.

Mr. CAMERON said there were lumbermen from Upper Canada also.

Mr. SCOTT said there was not a single Upper Canada lumberman there.

Mr. CAMERON said the Hon. John Hamilton was there.

Mr. SCOTT said that gentleman did not hold a license in Upper Canada and he lived in Montreal.

Mr. CAMERON said the lumber interest which Mr. Scott served in Lower Canada was the same with the lumber interest which he served in Upper Canada.

Mr. BLAKE proceeded to say that the member for Niagara had reiterated his charge, and had asked the verdict of the House and the country upon it. He (Mr. B.) only wished the hon. gentleman had had the courage to challenge the verdict of the House in the constitutional and decisive way. He only wished that those gentlemen who had been so free with their accusations, and who had stated that the appointment of

Mr. Scott was an outrage upon public decency and morality, would take the constitutional course. Did he not believe that if the Government had been guilty of an outrage upon decency and morality the country would back him up if he recorded his condemnation of them? But no such course was taken. It was all very well to make accusations and to repeat them in the face of the most emphatic denials of them.

Mr. CAMERON said the charges he had made he made still. He charged the Commissioner with being the solicitor and agent of the lumber interest, and that he lobbied against the late Government.

Mr. BLAKE said that Mr. Cameron had charged Mr. Scott with being employed to serve the lumbermen on the floor of the House.

Mr. CAMERON—Yes.

Mr. BLAKE—He denied that.

Mr. CAMERON—He did not deny that.

Mr. BLAKE—He did most distinctly deny that he was so employed. The member for Cornwall also made a charge against the member for Ottawa.

Mr. M. C. CAMERON said he had nothing to do with what the member for Cornwall said.

Mr. BLAKE said he should not go on if he were interrupted in this manner. He could not help remarking, however, that it was strange that the members for Cornwall and East Toronto, who were associated so short a time ago, should ever be separated. The member for Cornwall had said that he would not see the paid agent of the lumbermen placed in the Crown Lands Department without raising his voice against it. He (Mr. Blake) would repeat what he had said on a former occasion: that a man who was the paid agent of any interest was not merely unfit to hold office under the Crown, but to sit in the House at all. Now, he (Mr. Blake) went farther than Mr. Richards. The latter said that he would not complain if this paid agent of the lumbermen had been placed at the head of any other department except the Crown Lands, whilst he (Mr. Blake) said that if he were the paid agent of any party he should not have a seat in the House at all. This charge, which had been repeated again and again, had not been established. On the contrary, by every means possible for a man to take to disprove the charge, it had been absolutely disproved and fallen to the ground. It seemed to him (Mr. Blake) that the position Mr. Scott had taken with reference to the lumber question was one that had been to a large extent conceded. He remembered that Mr. Richards himself acknowledged the great defects of the present system. He (Mr. Blake) remembered that he himself had several times asked the Government if they would not bring down a plan to remedy this state of things. At a public meeting he had stated these difficulties, and what, in a general sense, was the nature of their remedy. Mr. Richards had frequently stated that there had been an enormous increase in the revenue drawn from timber; but he had always studiously omitted to tell that during the period when that enormous increase took place there was being developed a new source of revenue, owing to the annual increase in the number of saw-logs produced by newly-erected mills. He thought that as regarded the Government there would be found no remissness in the matter of the lumber revenues. He never understood that Mr. Scott had represented the lumber interest, or that he had degraded himself to represent any interest; but he did represent a very important constituency; and he (Mr. Blake) denied that Mr. Scott was the nominee of the lumbermen, for he had been returned when these gentlemen had opposed him. Mr. Scott would also have been returned on the late occasion, even if the gentlemen on the other side had opposed him, but they knew that his position was perfectly impregnable. Mr. Blake then referred to the member for South Leeds (Mr. H. S. Macdonald). That gentleman was at one time what might be called a flaming Grit. And at the general election in 1867, when on the hustings, he became so excited that he had almost come to blows with an opponent.

Mr. H. S. MACDONALD said that in 1867 he was in such a position that he took no part in the contest. At that time he was the supporter of the member for Niagara.

Mr. BLAKE said that not long ago Mr. H. S. Macdonald was obliged to take a certificate to the Conservative convention; that certificate was given by the member for Brockville (Mr. Fitzsimmons) and was to the effect that Mr. H. S. Macdonald was a good Conservative. (Laughter.)

Mr. H. S. MACDONALD—No.

Mr. BLAKE—Will you say you brought no letter from Mr. Fitzsimmons?

Mr. H. S. MACDONALD said he was a nominee of the Conservative convention. Some persons raised objections to him, but the member for Brockville did write a letter, stating the fact that he (Mr. H. S. Macdonald) was a Conservative.

Mr. BLAKE—And you got the nomination?

Mr. H. S. MACDONALD—Yes. (Laughter.)

Mr. BLAKE then proceeded to reply to the remarks of Dr. Boulter and Mr. Thomas Ferguson. He pointed out to Mr. Ferguson that in the Macdonald-Sicotte Government in 1862 there were two Conservatives—Mr. Sicotte and Mr. Abbot, the latter of whom, a staunch Conservative, was Solicitor-General for Lower Canada.

Mr. FERGUSON said that when he learnt from the then Attorney-General that the Government would be a party one he refused to support it.

Mr. BLAKE then referred to the remarks of Mr. Lauder. That gentleman had stated that the Commissioner of Public Works said he (Mr. Blake) had taken the oath when he (Mr. Lauder) had taken the oath when he had not taken it. Now the fact was that neither he (Mr. Blake) nor the Commissioner of Public Works was in South Gray after he (Mr. Lauder) had taken the oath. Then Mr. Lauder had tried to get out of the charge by casting it on some newspaper or other. Alluding to the boast of Mr. Lauder, that he would take the oath of allegiance every hour in the day, Mr. Blake

said that he would best show his loyalty to his Queen and country who would so endeavour to govern the country as to make the people happy and contented. He was the most loyal man who was most faithful to Queen and country, and who was not always talking of his loyalty. Referring to the statement of the member for South Grey respecting what he had stated to the electors of that constituency, he said he had told the electors then that they were free to exercise their franchise without the least apprehension that the Liberal Government would do any injustice to the county of Grey, even, whoever they elected. The member for South Grey had complained that he (Mr. B.) had accused him of political dishonesty. It was a melancholy thing to admit that he did accuse him of political dishonesty. He made the charge upon the evidence of a letter signed by seven or eight members of the Central Reform Committee, who managed the hon. gentleman's election in 1867, including the chairman and secretary.

Mr. LAUDER said he had nothing to do with them.

Mr. BLAKE said the charge was undeniable that the hon. gentleman was elected to take a different course from the course he did take, and therefore he had reason to charge him with political dishonesty. He (Mr. B.) had been accused of having a master outside of the House. That statement had frequently been made, and as often refuted, and he would say once more, for all that, that he did not come into public life with any one as his master, and he stood to day as the leader of the Liberal party of this Province, inside and outside of the House. (Cheers.)

Mr. CAMERON—Nominally.

Mr. BLAKE—And practically, too. The charge was just as baseless as the charges made against the hon. member for Ottawa. He proceeded to point out the disorganized state of the Opposition. Was Mr. Cameron the leader of the member for South Grey? Was he the leader of the member for Cornwall? He feared the Opposition was disorganized. He did not believe that those gentlemen who claimed to be Reformers could be found in the Opposition yielding faithful allegiance to the man as a leader who had stated that he always was a Tory, was now, and would die a Tory. He then read extracts from THE GLOBE, Telegraph and Leader, reports of Mr. Macdonald's remarkable speech at Brooklin, giving his statements with reference to his having brought over the Conservatives to his view, and that the Conservative party no longer existed. Mr. Blake proceeded to point out in detail the principles upon which the Reform party carried the general election, and showed that upon those principles many of those who were formerly Conservatives had supported him, because the Conservative party had been merged in the Coalition party, and the coalition was odious in their eyes. He maintained that it was perfectly consistent with old parliamentary practice and with the theory and practice of party government for a party government to be formed in the mode in which the present Government had been formed. He contended that the absence of any definition of Conservative principles on the part of the member for East Toronto, and the fact that he stated in 1867 that the Conservative party no longer existed, was evidence to show that whatever the position of the Liberal party may have been, the Conservative party was demoralized, destroyed and defunct; that it had committed political suicide; that its leaders had declared that there was no longer any reason for its existence; and that therefore no earthly reason why his hon. friend from Ottawa, who falls in

s, sympathy with his views, should not join, and why he should not ask him to join, this Government. He maintained that his honourable friend had given the only answer possible for him to give, when he had stated that what his explanations as leader of the Government and his (Mr. Scott's) own utterances made him that he was. No man in the House or out of it dare deny that the principles contained in his explanations were not the principles of the Liberal party of Ontario, and his hon. friend stated that what those statements made him that he was this day. (Cheers.) The country was satisfied with that. The Opposition took a deep interest in the position of Reformers. They were grateful for that interest, and they were pleased to be able to inform the gentlemen opposite that the Reform party was so strong as to be able to take care of itself; that it was a strong and united party; that they were able now to carry out the views that they had been fighting for for the last four years; that they proposed to establish the true principles of parliamentary government, which had been violated for the last four years; that they proposed to limit within proper bounds the power of the Executive. There were no open questions among the members of the Cabinet. So far as they had been able to forecast the future they were perfectly united and prepared vigorously to push forward those views which they unitedly entertained. His hon. friends behind him knew very well that he did not want to come there, and he did not want to stay there. They knew the circumstances under which he came there, and under which he alone remained. They knew his hands were not clinging to office, and that he kept office only by pressure from behind him. And they knew, and he now told them, that the instant they felt it their duty to withdraw that pressure, to withdraw that earnest, cordial support which they had given him hitherto, that instant he would joyfully recognize the fact that duty permitted him to leave a situation for which no man was more sensible than he was that he was unfitted, and that he ought to quit, whether as regards his own interests or possibly as regards the interests of his friends. It was not correct that there was dissatisfaction in his ranks; and he challenged the Opposition to the division list. Then they would see whether the solid column which he led to the assault, and which broke the hon. gentleman's battalions and sent him disorganized and defeated to the other side, was not prepared to sustain on this side the battle which they fought and won on the other. (Loud cheers.)

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