

ments. Mr. McDowell, a man in a position of the highest responsibility, whose word no man could doubt, much less his sworn statement, swears most positively that man Lewis appeared at several meetings and stated to the people that he had the authority of the Government for taking the course he did; and further, that he warned the people on the same authority against supporting Mr. Lauder. He (Mr. Lauder) had the original affidavits there in his desk. Now it must be remembered that he, with several other members of the late Legislature, had been instrumental in having an Act passed providing for the re-valuation of the public lands, and that he introduced resolutions into that Chamber on different occasions bringing under the notice of the House the necessity of re-valuing those lands. As soon as that Act was passed gentlemen were appointed to inspect those lands; and they did so under the authority of that Act, and the result of their inspection was that reports were duly sent in to the Crown Lands Office. During his (Mr. Lauder's) canvass in those townships he stated to the people that he had been instrumental in bringing about the passage of that Act; and he mentioned the name of Mr. Lewis in the presence of the Commissioner of Crown Lands and the President of the Council at several meetings where those two gentlemen were present, and his name was necessarily introduced on account of his having previously been in that neighborhood. Questions were put to him (Mr. Lauder) frequently at those meetings to know whether the Bill was a mere electioneering dodge, whether anything was to be done under it, and in order to answer these questions he was obliged to give particulars as to what had been done. So the President of the Council as well as the Commissioner of Public Works were fully aware of what Lewis had done and how he had done it. They heard him (Mr. Lauder) state that those reports had been sent in and were filed in the Crown Lands office; and as he believed that Lewis was fully competent to discharge his duties, and had discharged them satisfactorily, he had spoken of him to the people in the highest terms, thus creating in their minds an impression that Lewis was a man to be trusted, and that what he should say they would be safe in accepting. He merely mentioned these circumstances to show how this man came to be mentioned at all. He was satisfied that if he had not mentioned Lewis in those townships that he (Lewis) would not have been found afterwards canvassing the settlers against him. He would now read extracts from the affidavits, and would first of all remark that there could be no doubt that this man made the statements detailed in those affidavits. What led him to do so, to thus misrepresent the Government, if he did misrepresent them, it was impossible to say; but that these statements were made there could not be a shadow of doubt. The first he would take was the affidavit of John McDowell, Esq., J. P., the fifth paragraph of which was as follows:—"At the said meeting, held in the village of Dundalk two nights before the election, Messrs. Lewis and Nixon were both present and both made speeches. Mr. Lewis, in the course of his speech, stated that before leaving St. Catharines he had received instructions to meet Mr. Nixon, and both hurry on together, so as to work in concert. He also stated that on his arrival in Toronto, on his way to South Grey, he called at the residence of Mr. Edward Blake to get further instructions; and stated that Mr. Blake gave him (Lewis) a special pledge that if the voters of Proton would vote against Mr. Lauder they should have the full benefit of the low estimate which had been made of the value of their lands, but not otherwise." That Lewis made those statements he could not have the shadow of a doubt; there was his hon. friend from North Grey, who knew Mr. McDowell to be a man of his word. The way that Lewis went about it, as far as could be seen from the affidavits, was this—Lewis had the valuation book there and stated at May's Hotel that he had it with him, and May says in his affidavit that he knew it to be the same that Lewis had had there in the summer. The paragraph in which Mr. May speaks of the book runs thus: "Having free access from time to time to the Government book above referred to, I readily recognized the one used in the election campaign to be the same one as was used in August and September. Mr. May was not the man to put his name to a statement that was false; he was a man well known in those townships and is looked upon as a leading man in the section." Those affidavits having been made lately, he (Mr. Lauder) knew nothing about their being drawn up; they were sent to him voluntarily from those townships, and no doubt they were made by those individuals without coercion. How they were procured he did not know; he was not a party to their drafting nor to their preparation. The affidavit of Mr. Hughes also made a statement which seemed to charge certain members of the Council with complicity in that matter. In the second paragraph of his affidavit that gentleman said:—"On the evening of the 27th day of December last, I saw Mr. Lewis at Pate's hotel, in the village of Dundalk, at a public meeting held in Mr. Dickey's interest, and addressing me he said 'You're all right now if you vote for Dickey; and passing through the crowd he made similar speeches to a number of voters, and gave them to understand that his valuations had not been adopted by the Sandfield Macdonald Government, but that Blake's Government would give the benefit of such valuation to such voters as would support their candidate," and Mr. Hughes swore also that he believed a good many voters were influenced by that statement. These affidavits alone were sufficient to justify him in taking the course he had done. The whole of the settlers of the townships, those who had supported him and those who had voted against him, would be prepared to testify to the truth of the statements made by these men. No later than the previous evening, in one of the hotels in the city, a gentleman well known in the riding had told him that there would

no difficulty in getting dozens of affidavits to prove that this man, in conjunction with Nixon, went through the township making that statement; so that the proof that this man did represent himself to be an agent of the Government, and was authorized to act for them, could easily be obtained. This man, thus acting in the capacity of an agent of the Government for a long time, going into the houses of the people, talking to them about their land, contrived to secure their confidence, and was just the man to use them as he did. He (Mr. Lauder) did not think there was a single member of that House, certainly not a member of it outside the Administration, who would dare to stand up and justify the statements made by that man, or say that he (Mr. Lauder) was not right in bringing the matter before the House. The hon. Commissioner of Public Works had accused him during his canvass of using an improper argument in telling the people that it was to their interest to support the then Government; but was there any gentleman there a supporter of the Government who had not sought election on similar grounds? He could see nothing extraordinary in that argument. He (Mr. Lauder) had a right to say so because he had brought about legislation in the interests of that section of the country, such as the railway measure which he had supported; and he had a perfect right to tell them that the Government of John Sandfield Macdonald was friendly to them and they ought to stand by it, and he believed the feeling of the riding was to stand by that Government. People had heard a great deal about the impropriety of public companies or their servants interfering as canvassers in elections; and no man had talked more on that subject than the hon. Commissioner of Public Works, who had also maintained that it was wrong for the servants of the Government to interfere in elections because he said it looked like Government interference. But it became different when sides were changed. This man, who he proposed to show had the sanction of hon. gentlemen opposite for the course he took, was more than an ordinary officer of the Government; he was placed in the relation of passing judgment between the Government and the people, thus giving him an influence which no one else had. There could be no doubt that Lewis went there representing himself to be an agent of the Government, and representing that he had the sanction of the Government for the course he took. The very next morning after that meeting at Dundalk, a man came to him (Mr. Lauder) and told him what had taken place, and he was perfectly amazed to hear what had been said. Was it likely that Lewis would go there on his own account, that he would go all that way without somebody sending him up there? Nobody could make him believe that. He (Mr. Lauder) could prove that Lewis spoke to two Reeves and three councillors so late as last September; that Lewis told them if there was a man in Ontario whom they should choose to represent them he (Mr. Lauder) was the man. Lewis had told them at that time that he (Mr. Lauder) had a claim upon them which nobody else had and they ought to support him. What made Lewis change his opinions so suddenly? It was absurd to suppose he changed without some inducement being held out to him; few sensible men would believe that. He purposed to show how it was that Lewis came to change his opinion. The hon. President of the Council and the hon. Commissioner of Public Works had strong motives to use every means in their power to defeat him. They went up into the riding themselves; though the Hon. President soon found he was not doing any good, and told the hon. member for Brant that it was a bad affair and he was sick of it.

Hon. Mr. McKELLAR asked if the hon. gentleman referred to him?

Mr. LAUDER would refer to him by-and-by. He had the statement of gentlemen opposed to him on the hustings that the two hon. gentlemen said they would spare no means to carry that election. Information was constantly supplied to their candidate, and material of a more weighty kind was also forthcoming; in fact, he was charged to beat him (Mr. Lauder) at all hazards. Was it likely that the hon. Commissioner for Public Works would spend three weeks in Grey and travel from settlement to settlement and then come down there to Toronto and take his place without availing himself of it to bring to bear all the influences against him that he could. No doubt the hon. Commissioner kept a good look out and was quite alive to the necessity of doing all he could to defeat him, and he believed that the hon. gentleman had an interview with Lewis before he went there. At the very first meeting at which Lewis was present, he was asked by a friend of his (Mr. Lauder's) what authority he had to appear for the Government. Lewis then stated deliberately that he had had an interview with the hon. Commissioner of Public Works (Mr. McKellar,) and that he then gave him authority to make those statements. When the story was first told to him (Mr. Lauder), the President of the Council was not named, but the name of the Commissioner of Public Works was mentioned. Lewis did not merely mention his authority; he gave particulars. He said he went down to Toronto to obtain authority from the Government; that he went to the American Hotel and found that the hon. Commissioner of Public Works was in bed. (Laughter) But being determined to have an interview with him, as he had been sent for and did not wish to go to Grey without seeing him, the hon. gentleman (Mr. McKellar) was prevailed upon to admit these intimidators of the people into his bedroom. (Laughter) Hon. gentlemen on the Treasury benches might laugh, but they could not laugh away the facts which he was placing before them. These men, Lewis and Nixon, declared that they had had an interview with the hon. gentleman, and had his authority for saying that the valuations of Proton would be accepted, and that they were told to go up immediately and do all they

could for Dickey. He (Mr. Lauder) was just as sure as that he stood there that the hon. Commissioner of Public Works had that interview with those men, and that those men stated what was true when they said he told them to go up and do all they could for Dickey. The hon. Commissioner of Public Works when in Grey used every effort to defeat him (Mr. Lauder.) He even left behind him a Gaelic address of five pages, signed by himself and containing more misrepresentation, more misleading of the people than was ever seen in one address before, if the translation he (Mr. Lauder) had seen was at all correct. From the translation of that document, he had ascertained that it was stated that the cash of the country was kept in a very large chest, of which the Premier had the key, and that all his supporters had small keys with which they could help themselves to its contents (laughter,) and that he (Mr. Lauder) had one of these little keys. It was, he believed, an adaptation of an ancient Gaelic legend. The hon. Commissioner even addressed the electors in Gaelic when he (Mr. Lauder) was present, and would misrepresent him in that dialect, because he knew he could not reply. Finding that had failed, the only plan left was intimidation, and to that the hon. gentleman found it necessary to resort. These things would tend to show why Mr. Lewis would be a strong lever to use against him, and that he was used with the sanction of at least one member of the Government he was certain. This man had published a letter in denial of the charges made against him, from which he read an extract and drew special attention to the fifth clause which referred to his (Lewis's) complicity with the Government. That was a signed and published falsehood, and that he was prepared to prove, and the hon. member for South Oxford knew all about the matter, too, and he was a man whom the Administration would say was a man of integrity and veracity. He had in his hand a telegram which would give some light on the subject. (Hear, hear.) Men of this kind generally left some traces or marks of their footsteps behind them. This rascal (for he could call him nothing else) when he was in Grey happened to have some papers with him, and he dropped one of them, which was a telegram. This had been sent to him, and he thought it only right that he should present it to the House. (Hear, hear.) The telegram had been sent from Ingersoll by the hon. member for South Oxford to Port Burwell, and addressed to D. Freeman or Alexander McBride. It read as follows:—(Cries of read, read.)

"FROM INGERSOLL

"To D. Freeman or Alex. McBride, Burwell:—

"John Lewis, Government land valuator at Houghton Centre; find him and send him here; wanted in South Grey immediately.

ADAM OLIVER"

Hon. Mr. BLAKE—What is the date of that?

Mr. LAUDER—It is dated the 23rd of December, the day after you formed your Government. The Hon. Commissioner of Public Works knows now, that he knew very well this man was going there, and the hon. member for South Oxford knew very well all about these things. He had been astounded to hear that these men, in conjunction with the hon. member for South Oxford, had sent for this man Lewis, to intimidate the electors of South Grey. They had made a great mistake in allowing Mr. Lewis to carry this telegram with him to Grey. If he was allowed a Committee on the matter he would produce plenty of evidence to substantiate these statements. He had the proof that Lewis had taken out his pencil, and said he would write the word "satisfied" opposite certain names, [hear, hear,] and these things had the effect that these gentlemen expected they would. In March last his majority in Proton and the third ward of Melancthon was 150 votes, and at the last election he had been left in the minority by quite a number of votes. He was also prepared to state what had been told him by the people in these townships. He had been told that he had not done all he might have done in securing the passage of that Bill, while in other places there was no change of feeling among the people. He asked the Hon. Commissioner of Public Works to say, where the people had not an opportunity of reading the newspapers, and of knowing all that was going on in the country, and wish to clear their lands, whether that is not the most powerful agent that could be sent in among them. (Hear, hear.) He had not the original copy of the telegram, but if he were granted the Committee, he would have the original, and the person into whose hands it had been placed, and the names of those from whom the suggestions came, and who knew all about the writing. (Hear, hear.) There had been improper interference on the part of this man, and that no person would deny. Let hon. gentlemen take the case home to themselves, and they would then see the importance of an investigation of the case. To say that the matter should be overlooked or excused would be saying what no member of the House was prepared to defend, and if the hon. President of the Council refuses the investigation he will act contrary to his own views as expressed in a speech delivered in this chamber during the first Parliament of Ontario, when he moved for a return of a copy of a letter written by Hon. Mr. Campbell, (a private letter too,) to a friend at Sault Ste. Marie. The hon. gentleman will remember how strongly he denounced at that time even a hint from one friend to another in a private letter, to use his influence in an election; and if the hon. gentlemen found fault with that, what must he think now? What should we expect from him now? He had no doubt but that the hon. Commissioner of Public Works, and also the hon. member for South Oxford were instrumental in sending that man to Grey. He had not the slightest doubt, but that these two men were posted before being sent to Grey. It was true that Lewis might be brought to defend the charge, and he might make a number of false statements the same as he had done in his letter which had been published, but which was utterly false.

The hon. member for South Oxford had been one of the very first men the next morning to draw attention to the letter having Lewis's signature. (Hear, hear.) He had read a good deal and heard a good deal about public matters, but he had never heard of such an outrage practised upon any people. If it could be shown that any member of the Government had encouraged or sanctioned any such proceeding, then they were not worthy of either confidence or support. (Hear, hear.) The hon. President of the Council would find that he could not wriggle out of this charge as he had tried to do in the case brought up the day before, by trying to make the people believe that the amendment was the same in effect as the original motion. Did the hon. gentleman mean to say that he did not know anything about Lewis's going to Grey? There had been a crime committed against the people of this country. It had been sufficient to defraud eight constituencies when he obtained office, and to vote down the best Government we ever had, when one tenth of the population of Ontario were unrepresented, but it was a great deal worse to send up this man to intimidate the people of Grey. Let the members of the Government dare to vote this matter down; let them dare to refuse a committee of investigation, and he had no doubt as to how long they would hold their seats on the Treasury Benches. He dared the hon. Commissioner of Public Works and the President of the Council to vote it down. It was contrary to the law of this country, contrary to all rules of constitutional government and fair play and to the interests of this Province, to allow that name to go there.

Hon. Mr. BLAKE—Does the hon. gentleman produce the affidavits?

Mr. LAUDER said it was not necessary to produce them now, but at the proper time they would be forthcoming.

Hon. Mr. BLAKE enquired whether that was the motion of which notice had been given.

Mr. LAUDER replied that it was the same in effect.

Mr. BLAKE maintained that the motion was out of order.

The SPEAKER ruled the motion out of order, as it was not worded exactly the same as the original.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD said it had always been a rule of the House in his 30 years experience, that when the Speaker ruled a motion out of order he gave the reasons and authority for doing so, but he was of course willing to bow to the decision of the Speaker.

After some further discussion, the motion was finally ruled out of order.

Mr. BLAKE explained that there was no objection to the original motion being put instead of the one moved by Mr. Lauder.

Mr. LAUDER refused, and said he would place his motion on the paper for to-morrow, which was agreed to by Mr. Blake.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.

Mr. FAIRBAIRN moved for an address for a list of all qualified Justices of the Peace in this Province, now acting or entitled to act. This was agreed to.

TIMBER LICENSES.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD moved for an Address for the names of all parties or firms holding timber licenses in Ontario, on the 1st of January instant, setting forth the localities of the same, the area or number of square miles covered by each license, the date of each and of any assignment of such license, the bonus paid for each, and also a statement of all sums in arrear and unpaid to the Crown by such license holders up to the said date, and the date when such arrears fell due, together with copies of any correspondence between the Crown Land Department and any license holder in arrear, demanding payment of the same; and in doing so remarked that he believed the hon. Commissioner of Crown Lands would have no objection to making the returns complete up to the 1st inst.

Mr. SCOTT said the hon. gentleman would be gratified to learn that he had anticipated the motion, and the returns were already made up to the present date.

The motion was amended so as to include all the licenses issued up to the 1st inst.

On motion of Mr. BLAKE the House then adjourned.

Second Parliament—First Session.

FRIDAY, JAN. 26, 1872.

The Speaker took the chair at 3:15.

PETITIONS.

The following were presented:—

By Hon. Mr. McKELLAR—From G. W. Sheldon and others in favor of superannuation clause in School Bill.

By Mr. FAIRBAIRN—From the Municipal Council of the County of Peterborough, praying for the repeal of that part of sec. 2 of chap. 43, of 34 Vic., which relates to a by-law of the County of Peterborough.

By Mr. MONTEITH—From the Warden and Council of the Corporation of County of Perth, praying for the discontinuance of the Registry Office at St. Mary's.

By Mr. SMITH—From Alex. Ferguson and others, praying that no Act be passed to divide the County of Middlesex.

By Mr. SMITH—From the Township Council of Soho with a similar prayer.

By Mr. BARBER—From the County Council of Halton, praying for an alteration in the law for investing the Clergy Reserve money.

By Mr. S. C. WOOD—From certain inspectors of public schools, Reeves, councillors, and other residents of the County of Victoria, praying for a grant of maps and apparatus for certain poor schools.

By Mr. PRINCE—From the "Brothers of the Christian Schools of Ontario," praying for an Act of Incorporation.

By Mr. SCOTT—From Thomas Wilson, for an Act for the relief of the first mortgage bond holders of the London and Port Stanley Company.

By Mr. SCOTT—From the Managers of the Ladies' College of the city of Ottawa, that the Act of incorporation of the said college be amended.

By Mr. CROOKS—From the Law So-