

would also take occasion to say that the Commissioner of Crown Lands had given very great satisfaction in the country, in spite of all the accusations made against him. As to the Commissioner of Public Works, no man had been more abused, but he believed he still held the confidence of the country, and he was sure he deserved it. He was not acquainted with the hon. Treasurer, but from his reputation he believed he was entitled to the support of the country. But he gave his support to the Government, not on account of its *personnel* alone, but also because they represented principles which he approved of, and which were in the interest of the country. He concluded by adverting to the growth of Reform principles, which, he believed, would soon be triumphant in all of the Provinces. (Cheers.)

The paragraph passed. On the 11th paragraph,

Hon. Mr. CAMERON called the attention of the Government to an evil which existed in the Province, and which was not likely, from anything he had heard, to be remedied by the Government. He referred to the non-payment of witnesses in criminal cases. Every person connected with the administration of justice received remuneration for his services except witnesses, who were brought sometimes from a great distance, and put to great expense, and got nothing for it. He was not aware of any reason why they should not be paid; and it was the intention of the late Government to take the matter up had they remained in office.

Atty.-Gen. MOWAT agreed that the subject was one which ought to be dealt with. Since he took office he had given it some consideration, but it was not mentioned in the speech because the details of the measure were not sufficiently considered. The matter was still under consideration.

The paragraph passed, as did also the next paragraph. On the 13th paragraph, relating to the arbitration between Ontario and Quebec,

Mr. CAMERON wanted to know why the case prepared, or nearly prepared, by the member for Brant, while he was a member of the late Administration, had not been completed. Every Session the late Government had been beset with enquiries as to why more progress was not made. But it was much more difficult to prepare the case for the Arbitrators than it was to prepare it for the Privy Council. He saw no reason why the case had not been brought before the Privy Council and argued before this. However much he might disapprove of the course pursued by the member for Brant, he would say that he was more familiar with the subject and better able to argue it before the Privy Council than any other person, and he regretted that that gentleman had not been charged with the conduct of this matter so that we might have had it determined before this.

Attorney-General MOWAT said the correspondence which was promised in the Speech would show that the delay in getting the case submitted to the Privy Council was not owing to any negligence of the Government either before he became a member of it or since.

The paragraph passed, as did also the next paragraph. On the 15th paragraph, relating to the increase in the revenue,

Mr. CAMERON observed that it was a matter of regret to him that the revenue had been increased by the sale of a large quantity of our timber limits and the most valuable part of the sources of our revenue. He could scarcely join in congratulating the country upon an increase in the revenue, when that increase was caused by that which must be detrimental to the interests of the country in the future.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT said he had not intended to make any observations upon the Address, but several hon. gentlemen having incidentally drawn attention to his management of the Crown Lands—some of them in the most kindly manner—he thought it desirable to give some explanations in regard to the territory, and the motives which induced him to recommend the sale of the timber limits thereon. He had occasion last summer to visit the Lake Superior region, and he found the territory north of it and Lake Huron a bleak waste for the most part. He found

on turning up the records that nearly the whole of that territory had at one time been put under license to the friends of the Government of that day, none of whom, with one or two exceptions, were connected with the lumber trade. All that was charged was a ground rent of fifty cents per square mile. He held in his hand the report of the Commissioner of Crown Lands for 1856, which contained a long list of the names of the gentlemen to whom the territory was licensed. It showed also that the Government received that year from these ground rents only about £600. The parties who had the licenses, not understanding the lumber trade, declined to pay even the small ground rents, and consequently the limits came back to the Government. He found also that had an effort been made to settle that country. In 1862 the land was offered at 20 cents an acre, but in the ten years from that date only about 200 acres a year were sold. The attempt to induce settlement failed. He was familiar with the settlement of Maine, as well as the Ottawa Valley; and recognizing the importance of settling that territory, he believed the only way to accomplish that was to enlist the active co-operation of gentlemen engaged in the lumber trade, who, by purchasing the timber limits, would have a direct interest in the settlement of the territory. He had first intended to sell a much larger block, but subsequently reserved two townships, which contained by far the best timber. Had he sold these he would have received over a million more than he did receive. His hon. friend (Mr. Cameron) had observed that he had sold all the territory on Lake Huron. Had the hon. gentleman, when he was Commissioner of Crown Lands, made himself acquainted with this territory as he ought to have done, he would have known that he had sold only a very small slice of it. He had been charged in the public press with having actuated with sordid and selfish motives in putting this territory under license. When all the facts were known and the whole policy explained he did not think there would be a man in the country that would not acquit him of this charge. Had he desired to favour those with whom he had been long associated—the people of the Ottawa Valley—he might have placed under license a territory one mile of which was worth one hundred miles of the territory which he had sold. He could have put up a block of land on which he could have got a bonus of five millions of dollars. He spoke of what he knew when he made that statement. So far as the timber was concerned, he considered the land sold was probably the least valuable of all our timber lands. Up to the time of their sale the whole extent of our timber limits was 12,000 square miles, from which a revenue accrued last year in dues alone of \$659,000. He should have added, to these 12,000 square miles, fifty per cent. for what was known as the Ottawa Valley. There were 5,700 square miles there, and he did not hesitate to say that if that territory was put in the market they could get a bonus of five millions. He estimated the value of that block of land for the timber alone at twenty-five million dollars. Talk about the surplus of the Province—it was very little compared with the value of our immense timber limits. His object in putting a small portion of the territory in the market was not so much the accumulation of money but rather the settlement of it. By that policy he had secured the direct interest in the settlement of that territory of some 40 or 50 capitalists of this country, who would invest on an average at least \$50,000 each in that territory, so that in a few years some three or four millions would be invested there in saw mills, in roads, and in farms and general improvements. That land at present was perfectly impassable to settlers; but in the hands of those men, who knew how to get money out of its timber, it would soon become settled, so that in the next decade it would be filled with flourishing villages and fine cultivated farms. The lumberman must grow his own hay and oats and create a little colony around him; he must have a body of workmen; and therefore it would be his interest to take steps that would lead to the settlement of that country. He would repeat that the territory sold was the least valuable of all our timber berths. He could have put up one-fifth of the quantity and it would have realized double the amount.

It being six, the House rose.

After recess,

Mr. SCOTT resumed: His hon friend from East Toronto had criticised the Government for having sold these timber berths without having first submitted the question