

to Parliament. He had stated that before offering that territory to public competition, they should have submitted the scheme to the House. He (Mr. Scott) was not aware that this had been the practice in the past.

Mr. CAMERON wished to correct the hon. gentleman. What he had stated was that, considering the course which the party with which the hon. gentleman was now identified had taken in demanding that the location of a building which would not cost more than \$20,000 or \$30,000, should be submitted to Parliament, they should not have disposed of public property worth millions without the consent of Parliament.

Mr. SCOTT said he was not aware that gentlemen on this side of the House commented in any way upon the action taken by the late Administration when they offered for sale the Muskoka territory. That was some fifteen months ago. That territory contained probably the very best of our timber berths, inasmuch as they were more accessible to a market than any other section. It was quite true that the unlicensed portion of the Ottawa valley, up the Mattawa river, and on both sides of Lake Nipissing, was very valuable for its timber. But it had this disadvantage: that it generally took two years to get the timber down to market. In the Muskoka territory the facilities were such that the timber was invariably brought out the first year. That territory was placed in the market by the late Government in November, 1871. He was not aware that any member of the then Opposition condemned the course taken in offering that territory for sale. It was quite true that the Government of the day was subject to a good deal of criticism for offering for sale a territory which was then in the occupation of settlers. It would be remembered that deputation after deputation came down from Muskoka and protested against the sale of territory occupied by farmers, and under the pressure of public opinion the Government of that day withdrew from the position they first assumed. They passed an Order in Council a few days before the sale, withdrawing from the sale all the lands located up to a certain day in that year—some day in September, he thought—giving to settlers the right to purchase the timber by paying the Crown dues. That regulation applied only to those who had been located. Unfortunately a very large number of people who had gone into the remote townships, and who did not get the newspapers, were not aware of the Order in Council, and had not taken the trouble to locate, believing that the Government, as in times past, would recognize the right of the first settler. These settlers found subsequently that their lands had been placed under licence. His attention had been painfully drawn to this state of affairs, and it had led to very serious embarrassment in the administration of the affairs of the Crown Land Department. He might mention one case, and *ex uno dice omnes*—from one learn all; a man had taken up 300 acres in one of the remote townships, had cleared more than 60 acres, and made a number of improvements in the way of buildings, &c. He had failed to locate himself, and his timber was sold to Cook Brothers under the Order in Council. He had been on this farm some six or seven years. He came down to Toronto and remonstrated against the impropriety of selling the timber on the land upon which he had been so long a resident. This was a case of very grievous and cruel wrong, and he felt it would be the duty of the department to revert from the lumberman territory which had been so long a time occupied by the honest settler. That was only one instance of hardship arising from the Government having sold territory that was largely occupied by settlers. The true way in all cases was for the lumberman to precede the settler. He gave employment to the settler and provided a market for him. He knew there were some farmers in the Nipissing country that got \$30 a ton for their hay. He could himself recollect the time when the hay for the Upper Ottawa was purchased in Glengary, Ottawa, and other sections, and by the time it was taken to the shanties it cost \$50, \$60, and even \$100 a ton. It required, therefore, no argument to convince non-members that the lumberman, the moment he commenced his operations, was interested in inducing settlers to come in with him. He never discovered that there was anything inimical in the position of the lumberman and the settler coming together and developing the great interests of this country—the stronger man helping the weaker. He knew it had been urged against himself that having been intimately connected with the lumber trade, not peculiarly, but as an advocate, he was not the proper person to assume the administration of the Crown Lands. Hon. gentlemen would

remember that he was assailed in the newspapers, and was charged with being the paid advocate of the lumbermen. It was alleged that he took the office for the purpose of giving the lumbermen an advantage over the settler. His answer to that charge was to be found in a retrospect of the past year. He would ask the House to compare the results of the past year with previous years, and say whether he had in a single instance taken the side of the strong against the weak. (Hear, hear.) His sympathies had always been with the settler. The lumbermen were wealthy, and quite able to take care of themselves; and when his report came down, as it would in a few days, he believed it would show that he had sheltered the settler, while at the same time he had served the interests of this country by realizing a larger revenue from the Crown lands than was ever realized in this Province. He had with him the report of the Commissioner for 1866, and having compared it with other years he found the largest revenue was obtained in that year. It should be remembered that at that time the Crown Land Department embraced the Crown, Common and Grammar School Lands of the Provinces. It embraced the sliacs and the ordinance lands. From all these sources the revenue from both Provinces amounted, in 1866, to \$1,358,760. He would now read them, by way of comparison, the amount received by the Crown Lands Department in 1871 and 1872. In 1871 the proceeds of the Crown Lands were \$180,000. and in '72, \$193,000; Clergy lands, '71, \$85,000, as against \$121,000 in '72; Common School lands in '71, \$77,000, and in '72, \$80,000; Grammar School lands in '71, \$6,000, and in '72, \$12,000. The total sum received in the land branch was, in '71, \$349,000, and in '72, \$407,000. The proceeds of the Woods and Forests branch were, in '71, \$570,000, and in '72, \$1,191,436. The total receipts for '71 were \$869,000, and for '72 \$1,416,000. This was exclusive of the notes that were held on account of half of the sales in October. On the morning of the sale, finding that the banks were stringent, he agreed to take one-half the purchase money in notes. This would make the total receipts in '72, \$1,696,000. He might add that the number of patents issued in '72 was nearly one-third in excess of '71, and nearly double of 1870. He had not made this increase out of the settlers, as would be seen from the figures, the sale of Crown lands in '71 being 78,000 acres, realizing \$180,000, and in '72, 113,623 acres, realizing \$193,000, showing that the people paid less for their lands by a considerable sum in '72 than in '71.

Mr. WOOD—Where are these lands chiefly situated, on Lake Superior?

Mr. SCOTT—No. The lands on Lake Superior are called mining lands. These lands are all over the country. They were townships surveyed and returned to the department as Crown lands. Last year the mining lands of Lake Superior amounted to \$30,000; this year they would amount to \$150,000, which he believed was in excess of all the land ever held on Lake Superior. He observed that the press representing hon. gentlemen opposite called him to account for the reckless manner in which he had sold the mining lands on Lake Superior. They might have commenced their criticisms nearer home. The Dominion Government, following the course adopted by the late Government, had offered their mining lands in the North west at \$1 an acre. The Dominion Government adopted almost the very words of the statute passed by this Legislature in 1870. When the Local Legislature first met there was a great deal of interest taken in the mines on Lake Superior. His hon. friend from Niagara, who was then Commissioner, seemed to think that the only way was to hold on to the lands; at any rate, if any one did spend anything in developing them he must at least divide the profits with the Government. If he failed he had to bear the whole expenses, but if he succeeded he must divide with the Government. The result was that not a single location was made on Lake Superior. But the pressure of public opinion was so great that the following year his hon. friend had to reverse his policy, but still he held on to the pine. Patentees could get the mining land at \$1 an acre, but they could not get the pine. That was all very well had there been any pine to reserve, but unfortunately there was none. Some hon. gentlemen had suggested to him that it would be wiser to have a survey of the country made by mineralogists. He differed entirely from that view; it would throw upon the Government a very serious responsibility. They all knew that veins were sometimes discovered which seemed to prove hopeful at first, but after a large expenditure of money they would suddenly give out, occasioning great loss. Suppose that a mineralogist employed by Govern-