

the intention of the Government to bring any measure for the purpose this Session, but that the subject would receive the consideration of the Government before next Session.

Mr. LAUDER asked if Government did not intend to erect any new Counties or County at once.

Attorney-General MOWAT said his answer applied to the whole question.

Mr. FITZSIMMONS asked whether any arrangement has been made with the Dominion Government for the issue of, by the Lieutenant-Governor for Ontario, and the appointment by him of the issuers of marriage licenses for said Province, and whether the revenue derived from such licenses belongs to the Province or the Dominion.

Attorney-Gen. MOWAT said no arrangement had been made for the purpose mentioned; but the revenue mentioned belonged to this Province, and was accounted for to the Province by the Dominion Government.

#### AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

Mr. RYKERT moved for copies of all Orders in Council relating to the Agricultural College. The names of all persons appointed to inspect the several proposed sites for said college. The instructions given such persons, together with a memorandum of the expenses of such persons. Carried.

#### TIMBER LIMITS.

Mr. RYKERT moved for:—

1. Copies of all Orders in Council relating to the recent sale of timber limits in Ontario.

2. Copies of all reports in the Office of the Department of Crown Lands relating to the survey of said limits, the quality and description of timber thereon, the nature of the soil, &c.

3. Copies of the rules, regulations, and conditions under which the purchasers of said limits held the same, showing whether the whole or any portion thereof are subject to settlement.

4. The names of the purchasers at said sale, the quantity purchased by each firm, and the several amounts agreed to be paid by them respectively—the amounts actually paid.

5. The names of all purchasers who have failed to comply with the conditions of sale.

6. The names of all purchasers at said sale who have since transferred their claims to other persons, and the names of such persons.

Stating whether or not the purchaser or assignee was before the said purchase or transfer a license fee or limit holder, and, if so, to what extent. Also, the quantity of land now under license, and the quantity of land not under license.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT said a portion of the information asked as contained in reports already published; but the information would be brought down as soon as it could be prepared.

Mr. E. B. WOOD adverted to the importance of a proper management of our Crown lands, and the preservation of our timber. The United States were beginning to find, when it was too late, that they were almost entirely deprived of their timber. With 12,000 square miles of timber territory already under license, he thought it was not good policy to add 5,000 square miles more. The short notice of the recent sale precluded anything like a satisfactory examination of the qualities of the land and timber, or even to make a personal exploration. One summer

would not accomplish it. It would require at least two summers to make a satisfactory exploration. He did not suppose that any such exploration had been made by the Crown Lands Department. Therefore, it seemed to him that while we had already 12,000 square miles of timber berths under license, we did not need, at the present time, to put more land under license. It had been urged that fire might destroy the timber, but the danger was equally great after the licenses were granted and if fire destroyed the timber the Government would lose the dues upon it. It was also urged that the Americans were stealing the logs, and taking them across the lake, but surely if the lumbermen could protect the timber from theft the Government ought to be able to do so. He could see no necessity for the late sale of 5,000 square miles, and it was highly important to preserve our timber. He believed it would be found that the present holders of the 12,000 square miles were the persons who had purchased the 5,000 square miles sold in October last.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—No, they are not.

Mr. WOOD believed that whatever might appear on the list of purchasers, it would be found that the real purchasers were those who held the old limits. With reference to the mining lands, he was disposed to dis-

prove of the extensive sale of that class of lands. He would suggest that certain reservations might be kept in the hands of the Government. He should not have made these remarks were it not that he did not know but that before the House met again other 5,000 square miles might have been disposed of.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT observed, with reference to a remark of Mr. Wood, that there were 10,000 square miles at least not yet under license. There were 5,700 square miles in the Ottawa region alone, besides the territory north of Lake Huron.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON thought it was much to be regretted that the hon. gentlemen who had the government of the country in their hands should have thought it necessary, without there being any want felt in the country for additional timber limits, to change the policy of the late Administration without asking the sanction of Parliament. Mr. Sandfield Macdonald's Administration, of which he had the honour of being a member, thought that the timber limits already under license in this country, as had been remarked by the member for South Brant, were quite ample to satisfy the requirements of this market, as well as the demand for the American market, for at least 25 years to come. There was no pressure brought from any quarter upon the Commissioner of Crown Lands to bring these limits into the market, unless it was a pressure from lumbermen, who were already well supplied with limits. It would be remembered that when the late Administration felt it necessary to dispose of timber that was in the free-grant territory of the Muskoka district, they imposed double dues upon the berths that were to be sold, and notwithstanding this they obtained very much larger bonuses than usual. The reason that they imposed these dues were this:—They found that the licentiates holding timber licenses already had gone out of their limits and trespassed upon Crown domains, knowing at the time that if they were caught upon the Crown domains that they were liable to a fine. It was once said to the Government that if these parties, by trespassing, obtained lumber by paying double, it must legitimately be worth more, and should be offered at a higher price. The present Government were not selling upon the regulations of the late Administration.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT said the hon. gentleman was incorrect in what he stated. It was only on square timber that double dues were exacted.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON said double dues had been exacted on square timber, and there was also an increased price for saw-logs; but he thought these dues were diminished. In reference to this proceeding there had been something more remarkable than he ever heard of in any transaction of the kind before. He (Hon. Commissioner of Crown Lands) seemed to have taken credit to himself for the course pursued—a course which he thought was highly objectionable. It was advertized in the first place, as he understood, that the limits in question were to be sold, and the bonuses paid in full; but after a short time it was considered that that would be objectionable, and a change was made, between which change and the sale there was not sufficient time given to enable all persons who desired to become purchasers to take advantage of it. That change was that a portion of the bonuses should be paid down and that credit should be given for the balance. The hon. gentleman said arrangements were made with the banks that they should give credit facilities to the purchasers, and that the Government would allow the funds to remain in the banks that were giving the accommodation without being drawn out, and that they should be left in deposit in those banks at the rate of four per cent.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT said he assured the banks that the money would not be drawn by cheque and deposited in the Government banks until other arrangements were made.

Hon. Mr. CROOKS said that interest at the rate of five per cent. was obtained for the money deposited.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON was glad to hear they had obtained a larger percentage than the late Administration, which only got four per cent. One feature of the change was particularly objectionable. The hon. gentleman's connection with the lumbermen of the country was very well known. Had the hon. gentleman been able to act so straightforwardly that none of those who were his friends formerly, and who were his friends at that time, could get any information from him that the general public did not receive? He (Mr. Cameron) was unable to say, and he trusted the hon. gentleman found himself able to resist the pressure of his friends in that way. He had the opportunity of communicating the fact of the arrangement that had been