

lost by the logs being larger or smaller. It was estimated that, taking the production of saw-mills throughout Ontario, the average amount per thousand feet realized for the season of 1872 from the total mill-run would not exceed \$12 50, on which dues at the rate of 75 cents per thousand were charged, or six per cent. on the value. One thousand feet of sawn lumber was equal to 83 4-12 cubic feet square timber, which, sold at the Quebec season of 1872 at rates from 28 to 36 cents per foot, say an average of 32 cents per foot, was equal to \$26 56 for the 83 cubic feet, or say 3 1/4 per cent. on the value; shewing a difference in favour of square timber of 2 1/4 per cent. It was evident, to any one who gave the subject due consideration, that it was in the interest of the country that the manufacture of sawn lumber should be encouraged and that of square white pine timber discouraged; and that any discrimination in the matter of dues should be in favour of the former. Honourable gentlemen would see that in reality square timber was paying fifty per cent. less than boards. Even the increase of three-quarters of a cent. on the cubic foot would leave it a fraction less still. For the present year he did not feel justified in adding any more, because it might be that to add a larger figure might disturb contracts that had already been made. He intended it to apply to all the timber which is just now in Quebec, belonging to Ontario, on which the dues are still unpaid.

Mr. RYKERT—The owners will sell it tomorrow.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT said that would not make any difference. His hon. friend had not studied the details of the trade or he would know that.

Mr. WOOD thought it would make a difference if timber was sold at the current rates, and then an extra charge was exacted from the seller.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT said it was not the season at which timber sales were made. He had asked a gentleman of Quebec, who was pretty well posted, whether there had been any contracts made, and he had replied, No, scarcely any. The dues on square timber would not come in till June, when the spring fleet arrived and sales were made. Of course there might have been contracts made in Europe, but it was not likely that many had yet been entered into. He did not think the timber market would be sensibly disturbed by the alteration in the tariff. A good deal had been said about the sales of timber by the Quebec Government. The amount sold there was in the neighbourhood of twenty thousand square miles. Nobody took exception to that, but there was a difference of opinion as to the mode in which they were sold. There the feeling prevailed that it was very wrong that these timber lands should fall into the hands of a few. The Quebec Government got a bonus of \$8 or \$9 a square mile.

Mr. BOULTER said they were hard up for money and we were not.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT said it was true they had made a good deal of money out of the large quantity of territory sold. Ontario had also secured a large sum, and not only that, but would soon gain all the advantages desirable from an increased settlement in these districts. He had no doubt—in fact he knew—that a great deal of money would be spent in the Superior region in the sawn lumber trade—a trade which any Government would act wisely in encouraging, as it stimulated and benefitted the industries of the country to a much greater extent than the square timber business did. The hon. gentleman, in one of the paragraphs of his resolution, pointed to the impropriety of the Government placing in the market timber berths without first coming down to the House. As he had said before, he believed that this was a matter which came under the Executive branch of the Administration, and that legislative interference would not have been prudent. It was not his intention to recommend the Government to put into the market any considerable portion of territory for the next year. He thought it would be unwise for four or five years to come that any large sections should be put into the market. He, however, was of opinion that some tracts of country in the Province, which he thought he could mention, would have necessarily to be put under license. He knew of some places where the settlers were going beyond the Free Grant territories. They were filling up the country north of the Muskoka region, and there were townships there which were necessary for population. He alluded to the townships of Montebello, Percy, Cardwell (a portion of which was sold at the late sale and afterwards withdrawn), Stisted, McMurrich, and Frank-

lin. There were timber berths all round Franklin, and it was not advisable that it should be left unlicensed. He thought that perhaps during this coming autumn if it was found to be a good season these townships should be placed under license. Beyond that he did not propose while Commissioner of Crown Lands, at all events for the next year or two, to recommend any additional sales, unless it might be in proximity to Lake Nipissing, where he found settlers were going in, and along the Mattawa. At the mouth of the Mattawa a little village had sprung up, and he had no doubt that in four or five years it would be an important place. This was a point on which some surveys must be made, and it might be desirable to issue some licenses there. He was not however, committed to this, but was anxious to take the House into his confidence on these matters. Had he known at the time as much as he knew now of the Lake Huron territory he would not have hesitated to ask the House to place that territory under license, and he was vain enough to believe that the House would have taken his advice. He thought the people now pretty fully realized the position that putting a territory under license in no way embarrassed the Government, that it was the only way of settling some portions of our lands, that it left the Government in full possession of the territory to make just such regulations as they thought wise and prudent to meet the exigencies of the case. The advantage was, that you get settlers to go in and to choose their own locations in those sections which are most inviting to them. To show how utterly useless it was for the Government to lay out any territory by arbitrary means, no better argument could be given than that presented by his hon. friend the member for Lincoln in his speech on moving the resolutions before the House. He spoke of two or three of the Free Grant roads, the Hastings, the Addington, and some others. He (Mr. Scott) could have gone on and included all the Free Grant roads. Some years ago he made a calculation of the number of settlers on the lots along these roads, and he found them to be two thousand. Five years afterwards, after the country had spent a large sum of money, the number had actually reduced to four hundred. Sixteen hundred families, who had been placed there at very considerable expense, had abandoned the country because it arbitrarily stated, "We have laid out a place for you to settle, and there only must you go."

Mr. RYKERT said that they left because they had settled on poor lands.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT said of course they were poor lands, and yet the first Free Grant roads were laid out by men who were supposed to be most intimately acquainted with the tracts they were surveying. They drew an arbitrary line where they thought settlers should go in, and the consequence was, that during the time these settlers had been on these lands, they had been supported by the charity of the lumbermen of the district. Not only did the country lose so many valuable settlers, but it lost hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of timber, which these squatters destroyed by fire. His theory was that men should go in upon lands which had been licensed and take what land they liked. If they took valuable timber land the license-holders would see to that. He believed it was best not to bid settlers down as to where they should go, but that they should be allowed to go where their reason guided them. There was no doubt that the money laid out on these roads was of benefit to the country. He thought that if we made money out of our timber it was only fair that we should in return spend the money for the benefit of the settler by building roads for him. He had always been a strong supporter of the colonization road system. (Hear, hear.) He was glad to hear hon. gentlemen say "Hear, hear," and he hoped they would say so again when the estimates came down. He had now almost exhausted the subject, and perhaps he ought to apologise to the House for having made some digressions and for occupying so much time. It might be that he would be allowed to make some further explanations, should the course of the debate appear to require it, on some future day. (Applause)

Mr. DEACON said he failed to see the justice of the Commissioner increasing the dues upon timber already brought out. The lumbermen got out this timber on the condition that they would have to pay one cent and a quarter dues on it. And he could see no equity in now turning round and adding three-quarters of a cent to the dues on those who were unfortunate enough not to have sold last summer. He would like the Commissioner to explain this injustice. He also thought there might be something