

done in the way of adopting a discriminating tariff in regard to saw logs for use of local mills. As to the late sale of limits he thought the Commissioner of Crown Lands had satisfactorily shown that it was in the interest of the Province that the sale was made, and that it tended to open up the country for settlement. With that doctrine he entirely agreed. (Hear, hear.) He was hardly prepared to go the length of saying that timber limits should not be sold until the sales were sanctioned by the whole House, and he would leave it to the Government to grant limits without the ratification of the House.

Mr. WOOD (Brant) said he had given some attention to the question. In every session of the late Legislature the question was discussed in one way or other by almost every member of the House. There was a conflict between the little mills and the big mills, between the little lumber holder and the big lumber holder; and a pressure was felt from numerous parties outside who said the public policy of the country should not be shaped so that every person who chose might compete in making himself wealthy in dealing in timber. The great material interests of the country were centred in the Crown Lands, and therefore it was unnecessary to offer any apology to the country, the House, or the Speaker, for occupying time in the discussion of the subject. He had listened to the Hon. Commissioner of Crown Lands attentively, and had found that the present Government were continuing and endorsing the policy enunciated by the Government to which he (Mr. Wood) belonged. He enumerated two sources from which revenue could be obtained—the Crown Timber Lands and direct taxation; and he hoped that no scheme of direct taxation would ever be brought down. They therefore should guard the great treasure which had been handed down to them, and hand it down intact to succeeding generations. He maintained that the result of pushing settlers into back places a long way from civilization would be starvation, and the only method by which those regions could be speedily settled was for them to follow in the wake of the lumberman. He was happy to say that was the doctrine of the late Government, and it was the doctrine of the present Government. He showed how several flourishing cities had sprung up in consequence of the lumber trade being carried on in their vicinities, amongst which were Ottawa and Belleville; and he believed that the policy enunciated by the late Government and that which the present Government were pursuing would work out the highest benefit to the whole of the Province. The Commissioner of Crown Lands had differed in one particular only from the policy of the late Government, which thought that in the public interest it was undesirable at present to put any more of the Crown timber lands under license. It had been said that that House was not competent to form a correct judgment on this matter. He however, did not sympathize with the statement. He believed the House was composed of rational human beings, and that when matters were properly explained to them they were capable of judging upon them. He thought he was just as capable of forming a correct judgment upon the subject as when he was on the Treasury bench, and he did not believe the House was going to be unreasonable upon this matter. He was of opinion that it was competent for the Government to re-adjust the duties on timber. There were a great many arguments in favour of putting these timber lands under license. Immense numbers of saw logs were being stolen and sent over to the United States. He thought there was no necessity for haste in the matter, and although the lands might have been licensed in the interest and for the advantage of the country, he was satisfied that if the Commissioner of Crown Lands had known that the criticism passed upon this action would have been used he would have waited for a time. He (Mr. Wood) did not think the Commissioner of Crown Lands was bound to take a vote of the House upon the matter. It was only a question of expediency and policy.

Mr. COOK said it was known that there was a saw-mill on the American side, about 180 miles north of Saugenay Bay, and this mill was supplied with logs rafted over from Canada.

Mr. WOOD would like to hear the testimony of the member for North Westworth on the point.

Mr. CHRISTIE said he knew of a case in which a man offered his mill, on the north shore of Lake Huron, and one of the inducements to purchase that he held out was that he had never required to cut a single log, that he got all the logs he wanted floating in the bay, which had come from broken rafts that were being taken to the American side.

Hon. Mr. WOOD proceeded to say that considering the importance of having a coast settlement along the north of Georgian Bay, which was on the way to the western territories, he was not prepared to say that the Commissioner had not acted wisely in placing that territory under license. He understood it was now the settled policy of the Government to place no more timber lands under license, for some years at least.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT.—Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. WOOD also understood that the Government intended to go farther—that they intended during the recess all the regulations would be reconsidered and all the various Acts relating to public lands consolidated, and that they would be prepared next session to submit to the House a statutory system regulating the management of Crown lands.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT.—Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. WOOD said he must say that if the Government were sincere—and he had no reason to believe that they were not sincere—and if this were their settled policy, he did see that the member for Lincoln could ask anything more. If his object was to get the subject thoroughly discussed he for one thanked the hon. gentleman for bringing it up. That object being attained, he hoped the hon. gentleman would withdraw his motion. If it had not been for the satisfactory explanations of the Commissioner he should have felt bound to approve of the spirit of the motion.

Mr. BOULTBEE contended that the timber lands should not have been disposed of until it was fully ascertained what was the nature of the lands. The only justification of the sale of these lands was that the money was wanted, or that the lands were needed for the purposes of settlement, or that the timber was liable to be destroyed. The money was not needed, and it was absurd to say that the Government were not able to protect the public property. In so far as settlement was concerned, he did not think that it had been shown that such satisfactory progress in settlement had been made in the 12,500 square miles previously under license as to make it desirable to open up new lands for settlement with such haste.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT said a good deal of these 12,500 square miles was settled territory, and included many towns and villages. It embraced a population of not less than 50,000. A good part of Lanark and Renfrew was still under license.

Mr. BOULTBEE proceeded to say that the debates last session were in the direction of opposition to further sales. He contended that the timber berths should not be sold without the sanction of the House. In his opinion it was not advisable to encourage the wholesale cutting of our timber. He thought the lumbermen should be compelled to cut all the timber as far as they went, and not be allowed to go through the territory and select only the best timber upon which to pay dues. He believed the act of the Government in ordering this sale was considered in the country of a very questionable character. He charged the Government with inconsistency in not asking the sanction of the House for this sale. If the true reason for bringing on the sale was to deceive the purchasers, and induce them to buy worthless territory, he could not too strongly condemn such a course. Large facilities were given for unfair play, and it was not to be wondered that a suspicion should prevail that there had been unfair play. He did not say there had been unfair play, but he thought the fairest course would have been to have submitted the whole question to the House. He concluded with an attack upon the Commissioner of Crown Lands.

It being six o'clock, the House rose.

THIRD READINGS.

After recess.

The following bills were read a third time and passed:—

Mr. Deacon.—To authorize the Law Society of Ontario to admit William Robert White as a Barrister-at-Law.

Hon. Mr. Scott.—Relating to Christ's Church, Ottawa.

IN COMMITTEE.

The following bills were adopted in Committee and fixed for a third reading:—

Mr. Coyne.—To incorporate the Town of Brampton.

Mr. Cameron.—To incorporate the Orphans' Home and Female Aid Society of Toronto.

Mr. Cameron.—To authorize an ad-