

addition to the Capital Stock of the Consumers' Gas Company of Toronto.

Mr. Oliver.—To incorporate the Cornish Silver Mining Company of Canada.

Mr. Williams (Durham)—To amend the Acts relating to the Midland Railway of Canada, to extend the time for the completion of its extensions, and to authorize the issue of second mortgage bonds.

SECOND READINGS.

The following Bills were read a second time:—

Mr. Oliver.—To incorporate the Carp River Improvement Company of Thunder Bay.

Mr. Wood.—To incorporate the London and Petrolia Oil Pipe Company.

TIMBER POLICY.

Mr. BOULTBEE resumed the debate on Mr. Rykert's resolutions respecting timber licenses. He contended that the country was astonished when it was announced that so large a portion of timber limits was to be disposed of on the eve of the meeting of the House, without the sanction of the House. The general opinion throughout the country was that the late sale of timber berths was not a fair one, and was antagonistic to the principles laid down by the Reformers when in Opposition. It was admitted that the timber dues of the country would be the great source of revenue hereafter. At the present moment money was not needed by the Government. There was a large surplus in the Treasury, which was a source of embarrassment. The lobbies of the House and the hotels were crowded with persons anxious to secure fairly or unfairly as much of it as they could. There was, therefore, no necessity to sell the berths for the sake of the money at present, for in twenty years the berths could be sold at double the prices realized and when the money was really wanted. He hoped that every member in the House would divest his mind of any prejudice in favour of supporting any Government or any Opposition, and deal with the question solely on its merits. He was surprised at the course taken by the hon. member for South Brant, who made a lengthy speech in which he professed to discuss the question from a calm judicial point of view. For half an hour he (the speaker) could not find out whether the gentleman was going to support the Government or not, and though at length he did say that the Ministry should not be condemned for their action, yet at the same time he confessed that had he been in the Cabinet he would not have countenanced it. He (the speaker) held that all matters of importance should be submitted to the House, so that a free expression of opinion could be had before definite action was taken by the Government. That was the sound constitutional course. Members were not simply sent to the House to keep a certain set of men in, or to put another set in, but they were sent there by the constituencies to affirm principles, on the carrying out of which the country could be safely guided. Speaking for himself, he was not so much disposed to press the motion as to one of want of confidence as have the great constitutional question at issue clearly established. He claimed that the sale of berths was premature—that it was not fairly conducted—that good and bad berths could not be distinguished properly: and above all that permission of Parliament should first have been given for the sale; and therefore he should vote for the resolution.

Mr. PRINCE thought the Hon. Commissioner of Crown Lands had thoroughly exhausted the subject, and the member for North York had exhausted the House. He objected to the view the latter gentleman took, as to the timber of the country being its only wealth, and spoke of the silver and copper and other minerals as being valuable resources, as well as our soil and climate. He spoke of the giving away, not the selling, of a most valuable means of revenue, the fisheries of the country, by the leader of the party supported by the mover of these resolutions and his friends.

Mr. WOOD (Victoria) said the lumbering interest had so far benefitted all the back countries that the price for all sorts of farm produce was much higher in that region than at the front. He went on to speak of the fact that it had been the principal object of all Governments in this country to open up the back country and to settle it. The opinion of the people was that the Huron region was a mineral and lumbering territory, and it was not known that scattered through all that region were tracts of good arable land. Very few people had read Mr. Salter's reports. He believed the statement of the hon gentleman that in ten years these timber berths would be worth over a million; but the bare invested interest on the

\$600,000 would bring the value of them then to that sum. He then went into a detailed statement, in which he calculated that four hundred millions of feet of lumber worth \$300,000 would be cut, as well as \$25,000 worth of logs. These amounts in addition to the ordinary interest on \$600,000, would amount to \$1,235,000. His calculations went to show that in the lumbering operations in that section there would be expended in paying for labour and supplies four millions of money, making a gross addition to the capital of the country of over five million two hundred thousand dollars. In addition to that there would be a large number of schooners and tugs employed. In regard to the charge that the territory was not properly surveyed or sufficiently known, he read from the report of Mr. Fitzgerald to show that on the Northern road, from Spanish river to Parry Sound 150 miles had been surveyed. As far as regarded the principle laid down by the hon. member for Lincoln he had no objection to it, but the resolution only affirmed a general principle and did not make any provision for the carrying out of the work of the Department of Crown Lands. Little over a year ago the Commissioner had been vehemently assailed by a portion of the press and some of the members of the House, but at the proper time that hon. gentleman made his explanations and the country felt that he had thoroughly vindicated himself. Now we found members saying there was something behind the scenes—something in the past or something in the future—but they did not make any specific charge against the Commissioner, and that was not a fair way to act. He concluded by moving in amendment the following resolution:—
"That all the words after 'that' be struck out, and the following inserted therefor: 'That this House approves of the policy of placing under license sections of country in advance of settlement, and for the purpose of promoting settlement. That this House approves of the regulations hitherto in force and acted upon, in not granting licenses for new timber berths in the unsurveyed territory until the sections of country where the berths are to be allotted have been surveyed, so far as is practicable and required by the public interest.'"

Mr. CORBY referred to his own county to show that lumbermen wasted timber very much, and the settlers were greatly opposed to their manner of conducting business. In reference to the recent sale, he held that, as was admitted by the Commissioner, there was a tightness in the money market at the time; and, that being the case, the sale should have been postponed, as there was no immediate necessity for the money. The Commissioner might think that he had done right in the matter; but he could tell him that the country at large did not think so.

Mr. DEROCHE thought that it was because the sale of limits was not in the interest of the lumbermen that the motion of the hon. member for Lincoln was made. The only other object was to get a fling at the Government. He went on to eulogise the Commissioner of Crown Lands for his fair and equitable management of the Department.

Mr. PAXTON said he had read a report of a speech of the member for North York at Newmarket which was exactly the same as that which he had just delivered. He defended the policy of the Government in regard to the sale of timber berths, which he declared was a wise and prudent one. Within ten years the timber in the rear of the district sold would be worth more, with the improvements made by lumbermen and settlers in the front, than the whole country would be if it were not opened up. He estimated that within the same period there would be invested in improvements in that district from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000, and that there would be a population at least of 20,000 people. He warmly endorsed the policy of the Government, for it would increase the revenue of the country and tend to make the Province one of the most wealthy in the world. So far as he was concerned, his own personal interests would have been better served had no new timber territory been brought into the market; he and others engaged in lumbering would get better prices for what was at hand; but the policy of the Government was the true one, and he was convinced that the House and the country would cordially endorse it. He concluded by remarking that the people generally would consider that the honourable member for North York had better attend to his law business rather than the lumbering interests of the Province.

Mr. BOULTBEE asked the preceding speaker when and where he had seen his speech, previous to its delivery this evening, as he had stated.

Mr. PAXTON—I saw it in a Newmarket