

gentleman had denied that he had delivered a similar speech to his constituents to the one he made in the House, but he held in his hand a paper with a report of his speech the previous Saturday to his constituents, which proved that the assertion which he denied was true. If he was correctly informed, that hon gentleman was interested in the timber trade, though not in the ordinary sense of owning limits, and he found the sale of these limits clashed with his particular interests. He only referred to this to show that the hon gentleman spoke from his own stand-point, and not upon the merits of the question. He had something to say with regard to the position assumed by gentlemen opposite in reference to this matter. They attempted to lead the country into the belief that the timber limits, five thousand square miles, had been sold out-and-out. (Cries of No, no, from the Opposition.) The hon. gentleman then in proof of his assertion read extract from a report in the Opposition organ of a speech of Mr. Rykert's in which he referred to the lands being sold.

Mr. RYKERT—Did you hear me say that?

Mr. FRASER—Yes, I did.

Mr. RYKERT—I never said it.

Mr. FRASER in continuing his remarks said that the statements that one-third of the public domains that had been sold by the Government were made with a view of misleading the country on that point. The remarks of the member for North York were to the same effect. The Opposition organs throughout the country took up the cry raised by the leading Opposition paper, and he maintained that the motive was not a pure one. They cast serious reflections upon the Government, and endeavoured to make out that their conduct was not what it ought to be—without regard to the interests of the people. (Hear, hear.) In the first place, it ought to be distinctly understood by the country that this land had not been sold out-and-out. All that was sold was simply the right to get, under license, timber on this area of land; and that right, sold as it was for a bonus, was subject not only to present regulations, but also to any future regulations that might be made.

Mr. LAUDER—The hon. gentleman is wrong there. The Government have no power to restrict any of the licenses.

Mr. SCOTT—The Government have a right to make any conditions they please.

Mr. LAUDER—Are we to understand that if an individual got 20,000,000 feet of lumber one year and the Government thought that was too much, could they stop him from taking so much the succeeding year?

Mr. SCOTT—Practically the Government could do so if it were thought desirable. If it were thought proper and just that the quantity got out of a certain territory should be restricted, any Government could pass an Order in Council, setting forth for the next year, or any number of years, such dues as would preclude timber from being got.

Mr. FRASER, after this interruption, said it would now be seen that the lumberers were subject to the regulations existing and those that might be made. He did not think more could be expected than that the Government should have the control of the timber limits from year to year. The dues could be increased should the Government find it necessary; and the lands, instead of being sold out-and-out, were still under the control of the Government. With regard to his reasons for supporting the sale, he considered it was necessary for the purposes of settlement. There was no greater inducement to settlers to go into any section of the country than a knowledge of the fact that the lumberer was engaged there. He referred to a letter which had appeared in the organ of the gentlemen opposite, from the Ottawa correspondent of that paper, proving how valuable the lumberman was as the pioneer of settlement, and also to a petition from Lennox and Addington, to show the dissatisfaction arising from the settler preceding the lumberer. The petition pointed out that the Government had assumed the proper position. Settlers were already going into the Huron district.

It being six o'clock, the House rose.

After recess,

Mr. FRASER resumed his remarks on the sale of timber licenses, saying that since Confederation 20,000 acres of timber lands had been disposed of in the Province of Quebec, and no member on either side of the House there had ventured to assert that the sale of such lands should be taken from the control of the Government. The opposition to the sales there arose from the fact that these lands were set up for private competition, not because the sale itself was based upon a

wrong principle. Nor in the history of previous legislation in this Province had any member of the Opposition ever pretended to say that the sale of timber limits, or of Crown lands, or parcels of them, should first be referred to the House for its ratification. Even an honourable gentleman opposite had said that, as a matter of principle, the disposal of the lands should rest with the Government, but that on account of their management of them in the past it was not safe to leave their disposal with them in the future. The Commissioner of Crown Lands, looking at the matter from a standpoint which was best for the whole country, made up his mind to deal with the lands as he did, and he approved of his policy. He could tell the member for East Toronto that there were settlers going into the Lake Huron territory now, and that there were explorations going on for minerals. Whenever a single explorer went there was ten times as much danger from fire as there would be from a hundred settlers. Although the explorer was going out for his own individual benefit, yet he burnt up a good deal of ground in order to test the surface. Within twenty or thirty years we should witness railways extending into that district, and honourable gentlemen were aware that there was very great danger of fire from them. The district was not an interior one, it should be remembered—there were many avenues to it inviting settlement, and the Commissioner was aware of this. Then, in regard to the pillaging and plundering of timber, the honourable member for South Grey had stated that a raft could not be taken from the Georgian Bay district and across to the American shore. Now, if that gentleman did not know the geography and surroundings of the country up there, he (the speaker) could tell him about it. At Elpina, on the American shore, there were large mills to which much timber from the district had been taken. There was also on Sugar Island, in American waters, a mill which had been supplied with logs for the last twelve years without paying a dollar for them; and on Manitoulin Island there were mills on the Indian lands there, over which the Province had no control, and to which timber had been taken from the district. A friend of his, when the timber sale was coming on, explored the country and found it cut up very much, so that all information tended to prove that a good deal of timber had been taken from the district. Why, even in the Belleville district at one time thousands of dollars' worth of timber had been stolen under the very nose of the Government. How much more difficult would it be to protect property in the far-off Huron territory! Honourable gentlemen said it was a paltry argument that the Government could not protect its lands; but the question was whether it would pay to do so; whether it would be best to send a small army of officials there at a great expense, or save all this cost, perhaps amounting to two or three hundred thousand dollars a year, by disposing of the lands. No Government had had more information in regard to territory which it was about to sell than the present one had when it put the Lake Huron lands into market.

Mr. LAUDER—The late Government, before the sale in Muskoka, had all the lands surveyed and a report prepared.

Mr. FRASER—Yes, Mr. Judd was sent up about three weeks previous to that sale, and came back with an exceedingly useful report, stating that such a township had better timber than another, that there was a little more pine here than there, and so on.

Mr. LAUDER—Double the amount per square mile was realized for these lands than for the Huron ones.

Mr. FRASER—Yes, because they were nearer the market, and they were better limits. Lumbermen knew what the land was worth, and the competition sent it up. Lumbermen always ran up lands to their full value, whether the Government got information or not. The settlement of the country ought to be encouraged, and all the valuable arable lands should be opened out; and, understanding this, the Commissioner, instead of looking at the matter as a local one, looked upon it as one affecting the welfare of the whole Province, and wisely decided that the lands should be put under settlement, and that immediately. The money realised from the sale would double in amount in twenty years, at five per cent. interest. The Commissioner had secured \$600,000 for the public treasury, and the country would incur no expense on behalf of the protection of these lands, while at the same time settlement would be encouraged. Those who were alive twenty years from now would see thriving villages and industrious settlements in that territory; and the Commissioner, see-