

would not be in the interests of the country that those engaged in the timber trade should understand that their limits were liable to confiscation in consequence of mistakes made in returns. He might just say, in conclusion, that he had no political object to serve in making the motion, and that he had no sympathy whatever with the attacks made upon the Attorney-General with regard to the matter. (Hear, hear) He thought we were not careful enough of the character of our public men in this country, and that it was the duty of public men to protect one another's characters from unfounded attacks upon them. (Hear, hear, and cheer.) He trusted that whatever might be their differences in matters of politics they were all actuated by a common desire for the public good. If they would give each other credit for having such objects in common, he thought there would be fewer attacks upon the characters of public men in this country than there now were. (Hear, hear.)

Mr MOWAT (who was very indistinctly heard in the gallery) was understood to say that he had no objection to the motion. There had been no disposition on the part of the Government to deal hardly or harshly with the parties, but, on the contrary, there had been every desire to be as lenient as possible. The matter had come before the attention of Mr. Scott, the late Commissioner of Crown Lands, who had taken the opinions of experts, and these opinions were that extensive frauds had been perpetrated upon the Department. A claim had consequently been made on the estate to the amount of \$32,000; and rather than surrender the limits, the creditors of the estate had agreed to pay this amount. At the request of the representatives of Mr. Scott (who at this time was insane), a Commission had afterwards been appointed, consisting of Mr. Richards, the present Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia, a gentleman of a highly judicial mind and large experience; Mr. Kilpatrick, a political friend of hon. gentlemen opposite, an excellent lawyer, and a man of strict integrity; and Mr. Johnson, of the Crown Lands Department, who had assisted in the previous investigation, and had, of course, no interest in the matter. The conclusion arrived at was that fraud had been practised, a compromise was effected, and \$6,000 allowed to the claimants. That sum was paid, and they gave a receipt in full for their claim. They subsequently tried to re-open the case. He (Mr. Mowat) with the assistance of the Commissioner of Crown Lands, examined the papers and came to the conclusion that the sum paid was a proper one under the circumstances.

Mr CAMERON said that there was a matter of public interest involved in this case, apart from the claims of the Scott estate. He was of opinion that a material and gross injustice had been done. The fate of the Scott estate to-day might be that of any lumberman to-morrow. Few lumbermen could prove from what lots they cut timber ten years ago. In this case the Crown had acted against the subject upon mere presumption. It was assumed that a certain value in timber was cut off Crown lands in one year, and from that it was calculated that the same quantity had been cut for six years. The position taken by the Government was that as Scott had made a false return one year, he must have made equally false returns for several years. The Government could not be too careful not to inflict upon a subject the slightest wrong. He felt that injustice had been done in this case, in which the Government had no right to interfere, because if wrong had been done it was to the old Province of Canada and not to the Province of Ontario. It seemed to him that the papers should be brought down; and a Committee of Enquiry granted. Mr. Johnson acted first in the capacity of accuser, and was then appointed a judge upon the very charge he had made, contrary to all precedent.

Mr. MILLER said that Mr. Benedick was informed that charges had been made before he paid the money on the estate. He also advised the acceptance of the \$6,000. The question, however, was certainly one in which all the lumbermen of the country were interested, because some finality should be given to their returns. He had considered Mr. Scott non compos as far back as 1869 and not responsi-

ble for what he did. He believed that any return made after that date must have been made by John Rogers, the agent. If the returns have been falsified, it might be found that Rogers was interested. The dues paid by the Scott estate would in his opinion cover more than was cut at their mill. He went over the figures at the time, and could not make out any such sum as \$26,000. He trusted the Government would grant the return, and that an impartial Committee might be allowed to examine into the matter.

Mr. HODGINS thought that perhaps an injustice had been done. An officer of the Crown Lands Department made a strong adjudication against the Scott estate to the extent of \$32,000, and he believed that adjudication took place without the knowledge of the Scott estate; at any rate they took no part in it. The wrong was that this officer who had expressed so strong an opinion, was appointed a judge in the case. It occurred to him that it was not within the statute to issue the Commission, when the case was provided for by other statutes. The influence this officer exerted over the Commission led them to adopt his views.

Mr. PARDEE could scarcely believe that the hon. member was serious in stating that Mr. Johnston could influence such men as the Commissioners. After the then Commissioner of Crown Lands had come to the conclusion that a fraud had been perpetrated, the Scott representatives asked for a Commission on the ground that they could show that the timber was not cut from Crown lands. On the Commission being granted they try to throw upon the Government the onus of showing where the timber came from. Some evidence was offered as to the timber cut at the mills, but that decided little in regard to the point at issue. At the suggestion of Scott's counsel \$6,000 was awarded and accepted. Two years after the Scott representatives came forward and wished the case re-opened. He might say that if the Government had the slightest idea that wrong had been done they would have no objection to re-opening the case.

Mr. SCOTT said that those who knew Mr. Scott would never believe that he would ever commit a fraud of the kind.

The motion passed.

MARMORA LANDS.

Mr. BRODER moved for a return of all the correspondence between Geo. O. Hays and others, and the Government, or any of their officials, relating to the discovery of gold on the west half of lot number nine in the ninth concession of the township of Marmora, and also in reference to the claims of the discoverers, and to the subsequent purchase and sale of such land.

Mr. MILLER said that the correspondence on the subject had already been printed by order of the House two or three years ago.

Mr. PARDEE said that not all the correspondence had been printed.

The motion was carried.

BUILDING SOCIETIES.

Mr. HODGINS moved the second reading of the Bill to amend the Acts respecting Building Societies, explaining that his object was to afford these societies greater facilities in borrowing money.

Mr. CROOKS said that there were some features of the Bill which would perhaps have to be modified in Committee.

The motion was carried, and the Bill read the second time.

DRAINAGE.

Mr. COUTTS moved the second reading of the Bill respecting the drainage of certain lands by municipalities, and to amend the Act respecting municipal institutions.

The motion was carried, the Bill read the second time, and referred to a Select Committee.

RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS.

Mr. HAY moved the second reading of the Bill to make the provisions of an Act respecting the property of religious institutions of the Province of Ontario applicable to the Church of England.

Mr. CROOKS said his hon. friend was seeking by a very short Bill to effect a complete revolution in the Church of England in the Province by making it a Congregational system.

After some discussion, the Bill was withdrawn.

PHYSIC AND SURGERY.

Mr. BAXTER moved the second reading of the Bill to amend the Act respecting the practice of physic and surgery, and the study of anatomy, explaining that it provided that all bodies of prisoners