

Quigley had bought land and built a saw mill in the Township of Lutterworth, at great expense to himself; and in violation of their contract the Government had subsequently allowed lumbermen to go in on his land and cull the timber from it, and in consequence his mill was now standing idle and he was almost ruined.

Mr. PARDEE stated that there could be no objection to bringing down the papers in this case, but they had been brought down about two or three years ago, and if his hon. friend would read them he would find that Mr. Quigley had not only been treated fairly but that he had been treated with great generosity. He had bought the land for the purpose of supplying the local demand for timber, but, in violation of his contract, he had sold timber in Toronto, to the Victoria Railway, and to other parties outside his own locality, and had thus completely stripped the land of pine in a very short time. The papers would, however, be brought down.

The motion was carried.

MUNICIPAL OFFICERS AND LICENSE INSPECTORS.

Mr. MEREDITH moved for an order of the House for copies of all correspondence between any member of the Government and Mr. Gordon Cook, or any other person, with reference to the propriety of Mr. Cook being nominated or elected Reeve of the township of West Oxford while holding the office of License Inspector for the South Riding of the county of Oxford. He quoted the speech of the Minister of Education in support of the law taking the licensing power away from municipal corporations. He claimed also that the leader of the Government had on more than one occasion stated that it was against the policy of the Government that any person holding a municipal position should at the same time be a license inspector. He had understood from a member of the House that the gentleman named in the resolution, Mr. Gordon Cook, while holding the position of License Inspector desired to run for the position of Reeve of the township of West Oxford, and had naturally felt a delicacy in pursuing this course. He had therefore written to the Minister of Education asking if he was eligible as a candidate for the Reeveship, and had received a letter in return stating that he might with propriety stand and wishing him all success. In Peterborough, London, and many other places license inspectors were also members of the municipal corporations, therefore he claimed that the Government, in making the law in question, had done so simply for the purpose of helping their own friends, while preventing gentlemen who differed from them from holding these positions. If there was any explanation of the conduct of the Government, he would be glad to hear it.

Mr. HARDY said that Mr. Cook had not been reappointed inspector. He was inspector last year, but he was not aware that he was Reeve at that time. Mr. Cook, however, would not be reappointed so long as he occupied the position of Reeve. With regard to correspondence, he had not been aware of any official correspondence between the Department and Mr. Cook. He did not know where his hon. friend had obtained the scrap of letter which he had read, or whether he had obtained it from an authentic source. He had not heard of it before, and was not aware whether it was a private letter or a public one. He apprehended that his hon. friend would be scarcely warranted in reading a private letter.

Mr. MEREDITH said he had read a letter which stated that at the nomination Mr. Cook had read a letter from the Minister of Education in which the latter had stated that he could see nothing improper in his holding the position of Reeve, and advised him to accept the position. Mr. Cook had read the letter in justification of the course he took.

Mr. PRESTON asked when the term of a License Commissioner expired.

Mr. HARDY said the statute provided that he should be appointed annually.

Mr. PRESTON said this gentleman was not appointed this year. Were any appointed this year?

Mr. HARDY said some had been appointed, but not all.

Mr. LAUDER did not know any law that

had caused so much trouble and dissatisfaction as this License Act. Some of the commissioners had been appointed while they held municipal offices. He complained also of the expense of the system, and hoped the Government would say that reeves or councillors should not in future be appointed.

Mr. CROOKS said a private letter had been written by him to Mr. Cook in connection with his coming forward as reeve for the township of West Oxford. Mr. Cook's letter to him was quite private and personal, and his reply to Mr. Cook was of the same character.

Mr. MEREDITH—He did not so use it.

Mr. CROOKS said he knew the objections urged in the House against any municipal official having anything to do with our license system. Although there were objections, there were certain cases in which exceptions had necessarily to be made. Mr. Cook was aware that it was not advisable for him to hold the two positions; he had no desire to hold both; but it was difficult to find one who could take his place as reeve of the township. He (Mr. Crooks) had not changed his view as to the general mode of granting licenses. It was with great reluctance that he had come to the conclusion that municipal councils could not be any longer entrusted with the issuing of licenses; but he thought experience had shown that there was a necessity for the change, and that the result had been most beneficial to the whole community. Toronto, which had a few years ago been almost given over to intemperance, had become comparatively temperate. Both the advocates of total prohibition and those who did not go so far had admitted the good that this law had done. As to the question of expense, it was well known that it was impossible to enforce laws restricting the sale of liquor without considerable expense. He had not changed his opinion as to the advantage of this law, and he thought the more it was subjected to experience and criticism, the clearer would its benefits be shown.

Mr. MERRICK thought the House would be surprised at the admission made by the Minister of Education that he had written the letter referred to. The hon. gentleman had not chosen to state the exceptional circumstances which justified this letter. He thought the Government should distinctly announce, as had been done by the Treasurer on introducing the License Act, and by the Premier himself, that Commissioners and Inspectors should be an entirely separate body from the municipal corporations. One of the very objections the Government had made to the old license system was that the municipal councils appointed the officers under the law. Now the Government should have some definite policy on the matter, so that the country might understand the position they held.

Mr. MILLER mentioned the case of an Inspector for South Leeds resigning the position of councillor, because he was told by the Government that he could not occupy the two positions at once.

Mr. MOWAT said the Government had repeatedly expressed their policy on this question, and, as the Minister of Education had said, they had seen no reason to change their policy. It was quite clear that there were very few persons among the vast number of Commissioners appointed who were members of municipal Councils. The objection was not so much to appointing a person holding a municipal office as to an Inspector or Commissioner going into an election, and the Government had done their very best to prevent that evil occurring.

Mr. LAUDER—What about Oxford?

Mr. MOWAT said his hon. friend the Minister of Education had explained that. If the people of the township did not object, he did not know why a man should not hold the two offices.

Mr. MORRIS—What about the policy.

Mr. MOWAT said that if the hon. gentleman would wait he would tell him their policy from the beginning had been, was now, and would continue to be that the same person should not hold the two offices. They announced that on all occasions, and had acted upon it with respect to both Inspectors and Commissioners. In the particular case of Mr. Cook, he understood that Mr. Cook had been elected by acclamation, showing the high opinion the