

told, and correctly, that the estimates of timber berths were not public, but that apart from this, in this particular case, it could not be given, as no estimate was made of this or any of the other berths sold at the sale of 1872 nor has any been made since of those berths—in fact there never was a departmental estimate of any of the berths in question.

As by his inquiries in the Woods and Forests branch it was apparent Mr. Marter did not accept what I told him, and it looked as though he contemplated attacking me, I at once made a statement of the facts as above given to the present Commissioner, and requested him to lay the matter before the Attorney-General and his other colleagues, so that if they were of opinion that what I had done was censurable or that I was considered morally culpable my resignation was at their disposal. The matter was submitted and the Commissioner informed me that while the Government disapproved of clerks acting as agents, yet as nothing morally wrong, illegal or contrary to the regulations had been done in this instance, and as the transaction was both isolated and old, no action was necessary on the part of the Government.

I have Mr. Barnett's letters explaining my connection with the matter and such other data as will satisfy any reasonable person that I have done nothing illegal, contrary to the regulations, dishonest or dishonorable, and I can only regret that Mr. Marter has allowed it to be understood that I was to be attacked for malfeasance in office.

Mr. Barnett is a lumberman and a man of wealth. The money he paid to Mr. Johnson and myself was his own, and in no wise public money. It was received by me and made use of as my own private funds. It was neither departmental nor political, and not a dollar of it was ever diverted to political uses. Mr. Barnett received a large sum over and above his highest price for the berth, and thought he could well afford to divide that extra sum between those who were instrumental in realising it for him, the more so as he had made large profits otherwise upon the sale.

I repeat that the whole matter was a private transaction, one outside of the department, and in which the Government or department had no concern or interest, and I felt that I was as free to act for Mr. Barnett as a clerk in any bank or loan company might have been in a like case.

I have since the transaction in question been appointed Assistant Commissioner of Crown Lands, and I feel sure that members on both sides of the House as well as the general public will bear testimony to the fact that I have been upright, energetic and courteous in the discharge of my duties, and that I have known neither party nor politics in my administration of the affairs of this great department.

AUBREY WHITE.

Toronto, March 12.

ONTARIO MINING ASSOCIATION.

DEFINITE STEPS TAKEN TO PERFECT THE PROVINCIAL ORGANISATION—AGGRESSIVE ACTION PROPOSED.

Officers and members of the Ontario Provincial Mining Association have held several meetings and have now decided on definite and aggressive steps to perfect the organisation and secure a large and influential membership throughout Ontario.

The objects of the association are to have the royalty on mineral abolished, to secure the development of the mining interest of Ontario by the obtaining of a liberal policy for the construction of railroads and roads, and the establishment of schools of mines.

The membership fee is \$5, which amount all members are requested to remit to D. Bole, treasurer, Sault Ste Marie.

Members are requested to perfect the organisation of their local associations at once.

The first annual meeting will be held at Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., on Tuesday, July 19, 1892.

In the meantime the association appeals to all Boards of Trade, the Patrons of Industry, the Farmers' Institutes and all other non-political organisations in Ontario to adopt the following resolutions:—

“That whereas the United States Government offer liberal inducements to the actual settler,

“And whereas about three-fourths of the entire Province of Ontario is still unsettled,

“Therefore the most liberal railway, mining and homestead policy should be adopted to prevent the exodus from Ontario and secure the development of her resources and we concur with the Patrons of Industry that the public domain should be reserved for the homestead settler so far as the circumstances of Ontario will permit.

“And would therefore humbly petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to enact legislation this session as follows:—

“That to encourage the construction of colonisation railways in the inaccessible portions of the Province that a grant of 12,800 acres, including pine and mineral per mile in alternate townships, be made to such railway companies (which is the area granted to the Winnipeg & Hudson Bay Railway in the Northwest Territory).

“That the other townships in such railway belt with the pine and mineral be reserved for the actual settler who upon residing thereon for five years and clearing 25 acres and paying an entry fee of \$10 should be entitled to a patent thereof with all the pine and mineral.

“That the said grants to both the actual settler and the railway companies should be subject to timber dues of \$1 per 1,000 feet on all pine, payable to the Ontario Government as the same is cut, and by this means the present revenue derived from pine would not be materially impaired.”