

he country and would improve the condition of the Province in every department of industry. What was needed was to make it a condition of sale that the timber should be manufactured in the Province. Mr. Miscampbell anticipated the argument that it lay with the Federal Government to impose an export duty, and said that if the Federal Government proved recreant he was doing his best by endeavoring to get the Province to do what it could. The encouragement of the saw mill and the lumber industry would be the creating of a home market that would go far to improving the condition of the Province. As a further proof of the exhaustion of the Province's resources he mentioned the gradual diminution of the size of the lumber cut, showing that the smaller trees are being cut. He then held that there was a discrepancy between the Crown lands reports of different years as to the area of timber limits under license. It was a question paramount in the interests of the Province, he continued, and there was no greater or more important task to which the House could devote itself than the building up and fostering of this great trade. The taking of proper measures would tend to concentrate trade, and the examples of the great American cities showed what that meant. He had much pleasure in moving the amendment.

MR. CONMEE'S SPEECH.

Mr. Conmee said that the resolution amounted to an assertion that the timber of the country should be used merely for home consumption. Yet Mr. Miscampbell had enlarged on the benefits of the lumber trade. If the timber had not been cut in the past where would Ottawa and the other lumber towns be? The timber near James' Bay has been the property of the Province for years and has been of no value, because development has not approached it, and so with the timber now standing. Mr. Conmee then referred to the way in which the northern district has been gradually filling up with settlers under the present system, and suggested that if Mr. Miscampbell was thoroughgoing in his dislike of the conduct of the Federal Government in refusing to impose an export duty he should prove it by taking the stump against them at the coming elections. There would be no danger of that; all his attacks would be for the Ontario Government. It would be wrong to tie up the timber of the country; it should be used to keep the mills going in the country. A Chinese policy of repressing the industry would drive still more of the people away to the American side in order to seek for work. He was against putting restrictions on the trade of the Province; he would leave the people free to make the most of the natural capabilities of the country. If the present Government had a fault it was in being too chary in disposing of the timber. One might as well ask them for gold as for timber. Mr. Conmee then referred to the ravages which fires commit, and declared that if not cut it would be in danger of being burnt and being a total loss. As for the smaller logs now cut, it could be explained by the fact that the recent improvements in the lumber business, together with the regulations of the Government, have made it profitable to cut and use smaller logs than before. The course of the Dominion Government in regard to its timber limits, the waste and small returns, were then commented upon by Mr. Conmee, who went on to repeat his assertion that the Government had been too economical in its course.

ATTACK ON MR. BRONSON.

Mr. Whitney continued the debate. He said Mr. Conmee had misrepresented Mr. Miscampbell's position, and spoken generally so wide of the mark at which the resolution was aimed that it was not necessary to reply to him. The speaker referred to Mr. Bronson's connection with the Government, and said it was improper, inasmuch as he was extensively engaged in the lumber business. The company of which he believed Mr. Bronson was President held no fewer than 28 licenses, all of which were held by the sanction of the Executive Council, of which Mr. Bronson was a member. He held that Mr. Bronson should not even consistently sit in the Legislature, much less in the Government. He thought there were no two sides to this question. Mr. Whitney read from the rules governing the membership in the House and Executive Council, both in Canada and in England, and insisted that they covered the case of Mr. Bronson, and showed that he was not qualified to sit as a member of the Executive. General Grant had, when President, appointed A. T. Stewart, a New York merchant, Secretary of the Treasury. Such a position was one in which less influence could be exercised over legislation than was possible under the British or Canadian system. Mr. Stewart's nomination was confirmed, yet subsequently it was found that by an act of 1789 he was disqualified for the position by reason of his being in business over which, in his official position, he would exercise some control. Mr. Stewart was compelled to resign.

Mr. Tait asked what was his business.

Mr. Whitney said he did not know, but he thought it very creditable to the United States, first, that such a law should have been passed, and, again, that it should have been acted up to in the case instanced.

Mr. Tait interjected the remark that Mr. Wanamaker was a merchant and he had been a member of Mr. Harrison's Cabinet. What was the difference between the cases?

Mr. Whitney said he did not know that. He knew what had been done in this case. Mr. Bronson's case was similar to that of Mr. Stewart and he should withdraw from his connection with the Government. Mr. Whitney cited various other cases from the United States in recent years where he said legislators similarly situated to Mr. Bronson had been held by eminent authorities to have departed from right principles. He urged the same arguments applied to Mr. Bronson. He did not say any specific evil had happened, but he thought the principle a bad one. (Opposition applause.)

Hon. Mr. Bronson rose to reply. He devoted himself first to Mr. Miscampbell's general charges against the Government. What would be the result, he asked, of adopting the policy of the Opposition in regard to the timber of the Province, viz., the building of a Chinese wall around that timber? Such a policy would prostrate the industries of the country and inflict upon them a blow which they would not recover from for years. In timber, as in every other part of the vegetable kingdom, there is a period of growth, of maturity and of decay; there comes a time when it should be marketed, or it would decline in value. The Government's policy has been to market it as soon as the proper time comes. At the last timber sale some of the timber sold was on the point of deterioration, and would have been injured by being kept any longer. Mr. Bronson then questioned the statement that the keeping of the timber in the country would result in cities like Bay City, Saginaw, etc., growing up on the Canadian shores of the great lakes. The trade depends on the American market; only the best can be sent to Europe, and a great deal of low-grade timber must be cut and must be sold by Canadian lumbermen. But if the timber were kept in the country this market would disappear, and the country would suffer. He reminded the House that once the announcement that an export duty would be charged by the Dominion Government stopped a sale, as the lumbermen would not, under those circumstances, give the Provincial Government a sufficient bonus. He touched on the danger of fire, and said he could show hundreds of miles where timber that should have been cut years ago had been burned. The export duty would cause the mills to be shut down. The assertion that the manufacture of lumber in this country would lead to prosperity depended on the United States allowing the Canadians to send them lumber free of duty after the export duty had been charged, which Mr. Bronson doubted. The closing down of the mills would inevitably result from the imposing of such a policy as Mr. Miscampbell advocated.

Mr. Bronson then referred to Mr. Whitney's remarks. He was unaware, he said, that a man who was engaged in developing one of the great interests of the Province was, therefore, unfit to be a member of the House or of the Government. The electors of Ottawa did not think so. (Applause.) Mr. Bronson then explicitly denied that he or his firm had ever bought a foot of timber limits from the Government. Every foot that they had secured had been bought from third parties. (Applause.) All transactions which his firm had had were in the ordinary way of trade, and he was unaware of any discrimination having been exercised in his favor. Indeed, Mr. Whitney had been very careful to make no actual charges against him. As a matter of fact the timber dues were fixed, not shifting or dependent on the will of the Government. Nay, so far was he from having profited, that, since he had become a member of the Government, the dues on timber sold had been advanced 33 per cent. If he had had any influence, it evidently had been in the interests of the Province, not of the lumbermen. (Applause.) Mr. Bronson then remarked that the lumber interests of the Province are very great, and the Government might easily find the presence of a practical lumbermen in its councils of some use, and any influence which he might exert would be exerted in the interest of the Province. He then touched upon the precedents quoted by Mr. Whitney, and held that they did not apply to himself, since the dues which he paid were fixed and public, and had, in fact, advanced since he entered the Government. If the Opposition wanted another precedent, they might have quoted the case of Sir John Carling, who, as Minister of Agriculture, had voted himself duties on malt, which were of importance to his private business. He thought the cases cited by Mr. Whitney were not parallel, as he had no interests which would be affected by his position in the Government. If Mr. Whitney could prove that