

lished interview as follows:—"If any one ought to kick it is myself, for no one has spent more time in the part that is reserved than I have, and I may say that I have some claims taken up there. But instead of complaining I am delighted to think that the eyes of the world are being turned towards our part of the country. What we want is the capital, and if this deal will draw the attention of the moneyed men of the world towards us and away from South Africa and Australia, well, I would say give them five times as much." Such were the views expressed by three practical men, who were giving up their whole time to the mining interests of that part of the country where these locations lay.

The syndicate was now incorporated under the name of the British Canadian Development Syndicate, with some of the largest capitalists in London who invest in mining properties connected with it. Col. Engledue, Mr. Reid and others associated with them were even now known as a Board of Reference who can furnish information respecting the Lake of the Woods district to inquirers in London. Since the purchase of the Mikado, which at the time was wholly undeveloped, they have become a centre for spreading information regarding the mining properties of the district. As a result, locations in proximity to the Mikado had since sold for large sums. A property to the southeast had been sold to English capitalists for \$25,000, another to the southwest for \$35,000, and one to the west for so large a figure as \$100,000. This was the direct effect of what the Government had done. (Applause.) Col. Engledue and his associates would have had no interest at the present time whatever in Lake of the Woods or Rainy River properties had it not been that this Government showed enterprise enough, daring enough, to make an arrangement outside the beaten track of mining laws and mining regulations. (Cheers.) The Government had in the past been berated soundly by the Opposition and the Opposition in press for their want of enterprise in connection with the development of the mineral resources of the Province, for not going into the mining business, and for not spending thousands of dollars in ascertaining what the mineral resources of the northern part of the Province really were. (Hear, hear.)

THE HOUR AND OPPORTUNITY.

The opportunity came of entering into a special arrangement with these capitalists, and they seized it. They would have been unworthy of the confidence of the people if they had shown weakness enough to be afraid to seize it. (Applause.) He ventured to say that never in the course of many years had this Government taken advantage of an opportunity which promised to lead to more important results than this arrangement promised. He ventured to predict that before another year passed the introduction of English capital and the development of our mining resources in northwestern Ontario would become a matter of such extent that hon. gentlemen on the other side would be ashamed of the opposition they were offering to this agreement. What we have for many years been wanting is capital. (Hear, hear.) Talk about Canada for the Canadians, and giving the Canadians a chance! That is just what they were doing. Every thousand pounds of British capital invested enhanced by so much the value of properties owned by Canadians in that part of the country. (Applause.)

In conclusion, Mr. Gibson observed that they in the older parts of Ontario looked to the newer portions of the Province with a great deal of interest and hope. There was unexplored territory there capable of maintaining a population of millions, engaged not only in mining pursuits but in agriculture and manufactures as well. Capital was needed to develop it, and of that development the older parts of the Province would share in the benefit. There would be a market for our meats, our breadstuffs and our general products, for if capital goes into that country population certainly will. (Hear, hear.) He looked forward to a realization of this at no distant date; indeed, he hoped to see in his own time that part of Ontario thickly settled by an industrious population, devoting its energies to mining, lumbering and farming. Surely in that event they in the older parts of Ontario would benefit by the change. He was in favor of a thoroughly progressive policy as regards the new Ontario. (Applause.) He was sure that if the hon. leader of the Op-

position had not acted with such advised haste as to condemn the arrangement before knowing its details he would, after hearing what its provisions actually were, have been one of the first to applaud the course which the Government had taken. He trusted hon. gentlemen would see no difficulty in approving the resolution he had in the honor to place before them. (Cheers.)

THE OPPOSITION'S POSITION.

Mr. Whitney disclaimed having hastily adopted a course upon this question. Every day that had elapsed since he had given expression to his views upon the matter, and every item of information he had received day by day, had confirmed him and convinced him beyond all possibility of doubt that not only did he do his duty in doing what he did, but that he did that in which the people of the Province concurred and for which they are now thanking him. Almost simultaneously with his denunciation of the agreement in the House the newspapers throughout the country expressed disapproval of it, and since that time the newspapers throughout the Province, with perhaps one exception, had not been found saying a good word for it. There is, he declared, a unanimity of people in press against the agreement. Proceeding to discuss the merits of the question, he complained that he could not do so intelligently because he had never seen a map or plan showing where these locations are situate.

Hon. Mr. Gibson—I expected that the plans would have been distributed on the desks of hon. members to-day, and have been disappointed, but they will be there to-morrow.

Mr. Whitney accepted the explanation, but pointed out that to-morrow would be a little late for his purpose under the circumstances. He felt more or less diffidence in discussing the question with any degree of confidence when his hon. friend (Hon. Mr. Gibson) has had the full information before him for the past six or eight months, while he remained in the dark. He protested that the terms of the agreement were such that the \$20,000 deposit which was required is in reality no security at all for the Province. The Commissioner of Crown Lands charged at the outset that it was sought by the Opposition to make political capital out of the question by attacking the Government. He accepted the statement of the hon. gentleman as a confession of fear that political capital should be the result. It is quite possible and he could quite understand that political capital once suggested itself to the mind of his hon. friend, who is afraid that political capital will come to those who sat on the Opposition side of the House over the transaction under discussion. He was not surprised at this fear after what has occurred during the few weeks which have elapsed since the contract became known, when the hon. Commissioner took the public into his confidence and explained what a magnificent transaction had been brought about for the interests of the country.

IT WAS KEPT DARK.

He wanted to know why this transaction was kept in the dark until February, and then allowed to filter out in a half-hearted manner. Why the hesitation? Hon. gentlemen were running risks in delay if it was the great and advantageous policy they claim. It was a novel and unique one, and, if so, it was all the more reason why the public should have been told at once about the great development of the mining interests of this Province which was to ensue owing to this contract. The policy of the Crown Lands Department was entirely and directly opposed to Col. Engledue until Mr. J. K. Kerr came upon the scene, and from that moment Col. Engledue and his associates practically succeeded in getting control of the Crown Lands Department so far as this transaction is concerned. His hon. friend says the Government would never dream of allowing a second transaction to go through.

Hon. Mr. Gibson—I said the Government would never dream of allowing this to be accepted as a precedent or indicating the general policy of the Government.

Mr. Whitney had taken down his hon. friend's words, which were: "Of course the Government would never dream of entering into a similar arrangement with others." Now if this transaction is to be such a great such a wonderful bonanza to the peo-