

of every block of land in every part of this country by 10 per cent. Mr. Beatty of Parry Sound strongly opposed the motion. He insisted that the locations were known to be of great value, and that the "philanthropists" who were entering into the arrangement were well aware of this fact, and it was clear to anyone that the locations were within easy reach of Rat Portage and other favorable points of shipment.

Mr. St. John declared that the arrangement smacked of political favoritism unprecedented in this country, and had been condemned by the Commissioner himself in his letter to Col. Engledue, who was something of a speculator. Mr. Read, he said, was a personal and political friend of Mr. Hardy. Mr. J. K. Kerr had been the Treasurer of the Liberal campaign funds for many years, and these were the great capitalists at the back of this concern. He continued to make charges of this kind for some time, and once said that he did not care to make any charge against the Government.

Mr. Hardy—O, go on, no one minds what you say; you are too well known.

Mr. Whitney asked the Speaker if the Premier was in order in speaking in this way of a member.

Mr. Hardy insisted that he was quite in order, because for the past half hour Mr. St. John had been dealing with statements of which he could not know anything personally.

Mr. Whitney replied that the insinuation was that Mr. St. John was too well known for his statements to be of any value.

After some further discussion Mr. St. John proceeded with his speech, upon the conclusion of which Mr. Hardy rose to reply a few minutes before midnight.

#### THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

The Premier first devoted his attention to Mr. St. John, who, he said, was given to false insinuations, and who should not discredit himself by insinuations false in everything that went to make up an argument. Mr. Hardy gave a flat denial to Mr. St. John's statement that Mr. Read was a personal or political friend of his. Mr. Read had lived in Brantford over 20 years ago, and lived there two years, and he hardly knew him. As to being political friends, Mr. Hardy declared that from that day to this he did not know what Mr. Read's politics were. After leaving Brantford Mr. Read lived in Toronto for twelve years, and he did not see him more than once or twice in that time. Twelve years ago Mr. Read went to England, and in that time Mr. Hardy said he had received but one letter from him, in reference to a request something like the present. He was no more his friend than the man in the moon. If this House had not learned in twenty years they would in the next twenty years that his friends did not get any advantages over his enemies. In making appointments the Government favored their friends, but in deciding and dealing with private rights politics had nothing to do with the decisions of the Government upon the rights of gentlemen who came before them. He pointed out that Mr. Whitney, in his resolution, had removed the words which he had quoted from the Premier's letter from its context so that it appeared to refer to an agreement similar to the present, while as a matter of fact it referred to a very different proposal. He called the attention of the House to every line of the correspondence as a testimony to the absolute fidelity to the country's interest of the Government in the matter. He did not care whether Col. Engledue had capital of his own, or induced others to invest their capital.

The question whether the promoter of this company is wealthy or not is of little importance. He did not care how much money he may be worth so long as he can command the capital. Mr. Read, he had heard, is a man who has millions, made to a very large extent on the London Stock Exchange. The Government had taken good care that they deposited \$20,000, and then only gave them a license which bore upon its face the condition of forfeiture if they failed to carry out the requirements relating to development work. The Government had therefore safeguarded the interests of the Province—had but one object, notwithstanding the insinuations and innuendoes to the contrary. Some of the papers had asserted that he (the Attorney-General) had relatives that were connected with or might make

something out of the transaction. None of his relatives had ever made anything out of him in that sense, and are not likely to. Had the transaction been consummated nine months ago there was not a paper in the country but would not have chanted the praises of the Government. There was then a loud demand for a grand mining policy, and the less the press knew about mining the louder was their demand for a policy which was largely desired by mining speculators. This application was made after the fever had broken out from Rossland. There had in years gone by been booms in Ontario mining lands, which had dropped, and investors had not got their money back again in many cases. British capital was in consequence very coy, and the Government had recognized this fact in negotiating with Col. Engledue. The tract of land licensed to this syndicate is, he pointed out, an unknown quantity so far as its mineral wealth is concerned. There may or may not be valuable mineral deposits there. The syndicate had to take its chance. Referring to the case of Mr. Caldwell and his claim for land under water, the Attorney-General asserted boldly that in law Mr. Caldwell had not a shadow of foundation to the land in dispute, but the Government had dealt with him generously. At first when Col. Engledue submitted his proposition the impression was that it could not be entertained under the law. That was afterwards found to be incorrect. The cry was going up that capital must be brought in. The Government saw the opportunity and embraced it, and the Government asked the House to believe that it had acted in this matter, as it had acted in all other matters, openly and honestly, and to say that it had acted in the best interests of the Province in making this arrangement.

Short speeches by Dr. Willoughby and Mr. Howland kept the debate going until 1 o'clock, at which hour the bells were set ringing for a division. The amendment to the amendment was carried on the following division:

Yeas—Auld, Barr, Baxter, Bennett, Blezard, Burt, Campbell, Carpenter, Caven, Chapple, Charlton, Cleland, Craig, Currie, Dana, Davis, Dickenson, Dryden, Farwell, Ferguson, Flatt, Garrow, German, Gibson (Hamilton), Harcourt, Hardy, Haycock, Loughrin, Macnish, McDonald, McKay (Oxford), McKay (Victoria), McKee, McLaren, McLean, McNaughton, McNeil, McNichol, McPherson, Middleton, Moore, Mutrie, O'Keefe, Pardo, Paton, Pattullo, Richardson, Robertson, Robillard, Ross, Shore, Smith, Stratton, Taylor, Truax, Tucker—56.

Nays—Beatty (Leeds), Beatty (Parry Sound), Brower, Bush, Carnegie, Crawford, Gamey, Gurd, Haggerty, Hiscott, Howland, Kerns, Kidd, Langford, Little, McCallum, Magwood, Marter, Matheson, Meacham, Preston, Reid (Addington), Reid (Durham), St. John, Whitney, Willoughby—26.

All of the Patrons voted with the Government except Mr. Gamey. As they did so each was greeted with ironical "hear, hears" from the Opposition.