

in the highest position not only in the Dominion itself but in the empire. If ever anyone had done great service to the country, that service had been done by the late leader of the Legislature. He had been in public life when Confederation was accomplished, and the important questions settled that laid the foundation of the Dominion. Among the public men of Canada none had a grander record or a finer character, and the people were glad that he would still be in touch with Provincial affairs, and that they would have his guiding hand in the future as in the past. He hoped many days would pass before Sir Oliver would find it necessary to retire from his high office. Dr. McKay then took up Mr. St. John's speech. He told how Col. Matheson had expressed his amazement at the crowds that turned out to the Opposition meetings. Why should they be amazed? Gentlemen had heard Mr. St. John's speech. Were they amazed that crowds went to hear him? (Laughter.) There was a license fee of \$50 now for Wild West shows, and the people had not often an opportunity of listening to such exhibitions as that of the member for West York. No wonder the people flocked to hear him.

Mr. St. John had talked of the pro-American policy of Liberals. He desired to tell that gentleman that the Liberal party when it obtained power at Ottawa adopted a tariff giving a preference to British goods. During the Conservative regime Canada never had a chance of being raised to the position it now holds in reference to commercial treaties. It was true in effect that Canada had been rediscovered during the past year. In the face of all this he was surprised to learn that the Liberal Government of Ontario, according to Mr. St. John, was pro-American. The fact was that the only annexationist who ever held a seat in the Legislature was a strong Conservative from Essex. (Applause.)

Mr. St. John—I said the Government was pro-American only in reference to the timber question.

A Superior Policy.

Dr. McKay said the hon. gentleman had no right to say so, even in that respect. The policy of the Liberals compared with that of the friends of gentlemen opposite gave no warrant for such an assertion. The policy pursued was in the interest of the country, and far and away better than that of the late Dominion Government. In the matter of alien labor legislation it was a fact that while the leadership of the Dominion Government was in the hands of Conservatives no alien labor law was ever placed upon the statute books. Not until last session, under a Liberal Government, had such a law been passed. (Applause.) The Liberals had always in Province and Dominion stood for the protection of the rights of the artisan. (Applause.)

Much had been said of the destruction of the lumber industry and of the rapid sale of timber lands. During the whole of Sir Oliver Mowat's administration exactly 4,394 1-4 square miles of timber lands had been sold. Referring to the statement of the Premier that there were 24,000 miles of timber in one stretch still untouched, Mr. Miscampbell had asserted that the figure should be reduced by fifty per cent.

Taking the Opposition's own figures, 12,000 square miles, it would be found that at the rate at which sales had been made in the past quarter century there was timber land enough to last for the next 50 years. There was little danger, therefore, of the exhaustion of our resources. Long before that time the provisions for the protection and reproduction of our forest growth would have produced new areas which would come into the market. There would be no danger of direct taxation if the principles adopted by the Liberal party were carried out as they would be.

A Marked Contrast.

The care exercised over the forest wealth by the Government was in marked contrast to the action of the Conservatives, who during the boundary dispute had given away the timber lands of Ontario to the friends of the Dominion Government at \$5 per square mile. Under Provincial administration these lands were sold to the highest bidder, irrespective of his political complexion. (Applause.) Continuing, the speaker told how the Conservatives in the Legislature in the days of the territorial dispute had taken sides against the Province and in favor of the action of the Dominion Government in seeking to control the territory pending the award. Had their policy been carried out the Province would now have no timber lands to dispose of. (Applause.)

Dr. McKay briefly touched upon the other issues raised by Mr. St. John. He pointed out that strong Conservatives like Mr. Brock and Mr. George Gooderham were on the board of the General Trusts Co. Sir Frank Smith also could hardly be called a Liberal. The company was not one of any particular political complexion, and so long as members did not permit their business interests to interfere with their public duties there was no reason why they should not become company directors. He (the speaker) had introduced recently a bill for the inspection of loan companies, which had been strongly opposed by Mr. St. John, who was acting then as solicitor for a Toronto loan company. If that was the case, why should he complain of members being directors?

The popularity of the succession duties were spoken of, and the Opposition assured that the people were behind the Government in that measure. In review the speaker passed the County Councils bill, which had greatly reduced the cost of County Council government, the administration of the Agricultural College and other features of the Government's work. In closing, he said that there was not one traitor in the Liberal ranks from Algoma to Lake Erie, from Essex to Glengarry. All were true to Liberalism and to one of the best leaders the party had ever had. (Loud cheers.)

In reply to Col. Matheson Hon. Mr. Harcourt announced that the estimates would be brought down on Friday and the budget on Tuesday next.

Mr. Haycock moved the adjournment of the debate and the House adjourned at 11.30 p.m.

Notices of Motion.

Mr. Langford—Friday next—Inquiry of Ministry: Is game warden J. H. Willmott engaged by the day or year?