

because their limits were so situated that they could not do so. He referred to the difficulty of making 60 speeches on the public platform during his tour without occasionally saying something that was incorrect, and he paid a tribute to the press for the fair and correct reports given under the difficult circumstances of condensing long speeches. He looked back to no feature of that trip with more pleasure than to his association with and the performance of their duties by the representatives of the press. The hon. gentleman who had spoken the other day ridiculed his action in connection with the mining law. He called the hon. gentleman's attention to the fact that the Commissioner of Crown Lands had accepted the amendment which he suggested and incorporated it in the law, and whilst it might be trivial for a merchant to have the time for payment of \$150 extended to 60 days, it was of great importance to the mining prospectors. The people of the Province who owned the lands were entitled to every possible advantage, and the last people to be considered should be the syndicates, the corporations and the jobbers.

Mr. Whitney said that Mr. Conmee had distinctly stated that the amendments put into the mining act at his (Mr. Whitney's) instance were good amendments. Commenting on the remarks of Mr. Charlton, the leader of the Opposition said that the member for Norfolk might have no specific interest in the timber question, but for some reason he was intensely interested in preventing the imposition of the proposed restriction. If he were not monetarily interested what was it that impelled him to take the course which he advocated with the consent of the Government, and which members of the Government applauded?

Mr. Charlton reminded Mr. Whitney that he had spoken on his own responsibility and had expressed his own view.

Mr. Whitney said that Mr. Charlton was not an unbiassed witness, because he had accompanied the delegation and had taken a strong interest in the subject matter of the interviews. Taking up Mr. Charlton's calculation as to the timber resources of the Province, Mr. Whitney asked if we had 152 years' supply on hand how could the Government justify itself for spending money on reforestry? Mr. Charlton had declared that the imposition of the restrictions which had been suggested would be a breach of contract to the limit holder. In some cases it might make a hardship, but it would not be an injustice to any human being who held a license to-day. The law stated that licenses might be issued subject to such conditions and restrictions as might be imposed from time to time by order in Council or departmental regulation. In addition to that a provision of that kind was introduced into every license issued. Mr. Whitney said that there lived across the line people whose principal object in regard to foreign nations was to destroy British rule on the Continent of North America, and in pursuance of that intention these gentlemen had come across the line to meet the Premier and endeavor to induce him not to put on the restriction which ninety-nine men, and women too, but of every hundred in

Ontario desired to have put on license-holders. The Premier should have said to these gentlemen: "Gentlemen, we cannot listen for one moment to any proposition of that kind; I wish you good morning and a happy journey across the line." Public sentiment was in favor of the imposition of this restriction, not only that the interests of this Province might be conserved, but that we might be able to turn around and look the people of foreign countries in the face as men who had not been caused by the Government in power to lose their self-respect. It had been said that because some people believed we would be made to suffer if we did this thing, it should therefore not be done. It was not by the adoption of principles such as this that the British people lived in the state of liberty that they now enjoyed. It was by exactly the opposite. There was a sentimental as well as a material reason why the proposed action should be taken, and this would show the Premier beyond the possibility of a doubt that he would not be consulting his own interests by carrying the amendment to the amendment and refusing to impose the restriction upon the American lumbermen. He hoped the Government at the last moment would see their proper course to be to impose the restriction.

#### The Premier's Reply.

Hon. Mr. Hardy on rising was greeted with Government applause. He expressed his intention as briefly as possible to put before the House the precise issue that is now being tried and discussed. The Opposition had asked the House to vote censure upon the Government because they had not announced to the House specifically what the entire policy of the Government is. He did not think that his hon. friend had risen to the true importance of the question in the discussion which had taken place; he had looked upon it from a party standpoint. True, he made avowals, but they could not disassociate those avowals from the temper, the manner in which the discussion had been carried on. But the hon. gentleman did not discuss it with that violence that he did before. He admitted now that he was dealing with a business that had occupied a vast amount of capital, which has only recently risen to the first class in importance and fallen within the range of practical politics, for reasons which are not connected in any way with this Government. The whole has arisen from the policy of the legislation of the American Government, which fact the hon. leader of the Opposition and his colleagues artfully leave out of the question in their endeavors to lay the blame upon the Government of Ontario, whereas he had pointed out nothing, and could point out nothing, in respect of which the Government of this Province is censurable. The Government is pursuing the same policy in this country which it had been pursuing for many years. But circumstances have very much changed, wholly as a consequence of the legislation by the United States, and hon. gentlemen in their attempts to enlighten the people of this Province on this question ought to have the fairness and manliness to instruct the people on this phase of the question. His hon. friend had allowed his