

organ to make his mode of discussion one of insinuation, false accusation, endeavoring to arouse the prejudices, to make believe that hon. members on the Government side of the House are unpatriotic, that they were dabbling in treason, that they were loving the United States more than they loved Canada, that they were members from Michigan. Irresponsible writers had from day to day and from hour to hour sent these statements through the country.

The Situation.

The Government found itself face to face with a situation in which business men of large capital had invested in this country, which we had invited them to do. They had paid their money to the Crown. They had invested under our law, which permits and invites aliens to purchase and hold property, under which the rights of the alien or foreigner are as sacred as those of anybody else, because it is under British law and British practice, which is not like the American practice, which says aliens shall not hold property in that country. The hon. gentleman had spoken in tones of hatred of the foreigner at every meeting he had addressed; he had advocated a policy by which the bonds which they had entered into with these men under the sign manual of his Honor would not be respected, but would be wiped away, just as if they had never existed. The Government were dealing with the logs of these men, which they could not take out of the country until they had paid the full stumpage dues. The Province had sold 20,000 odd miles of timber lands, and the Americans have purchased 217 miles from the Government and 2,471 miles from private parties. These were Americans who did not own mills in the country; those Americans who did own mills in Canada owned 1,753 miles in addition. Behind these owners, however, stand the banks and private parties who have loaned money in some instances to nearly its full value, so that the Government is not dealing so much with Americans as with those who had advanced money.

Provincial Honor Involved.

Yet hon. gentlemen had sought to make it appear that when the Government met the deputation of lumbermen, as they met deputations in the Council chamber every day, they held a meeting that smacked of treason; as if the members of the Government had got out of bed to meet these gentlemen in secret conclave to conspire against the interests of this Province. If there could be anything more childish than these statements he had yet to learn it, anything that approached nearer to imbecility, that could show greater desperation. Hon. Mr. Hardy then compared the amendment of Mr. Haycock with that submitted by Mr. Miscampbell, and pointed out that it was not the practice in the address to set forth fully what the policy of the Government is upon any particular question, but merely to refer to the matter, and the Government had followed the usual course in accordance with precedents. Mr. Hardy then read the salient provisions of the timber licenses, and pointed out that when Commissioner of Crown Lands he had

amended the regulations withdrawing the right to cut all timber previously enjoyed by the limit-holders and gave them the pine only. One important question which the Government had to settle was whether they would reverse the act of Parliament and the contract with limit-holders, go back on the honor of the Crown, something which the Canadian Parliament has never yet sanctioned, whether they would keep their word, whether the contract made by the Crown on the honor of the Crown with foreigners was to be broken for the first time in the history of the Dominion and Province. That was what the resolution of the hon. member for Simcoe asked them to do. The Government had received the Canadian delegation perhaps two weeks before the American delegation came. He was rather inclined to think that the latter was a morning interview, but as the Canadian delegation came at 11 o'clock he might be confusing the two. However, the time, so long as it was not 7 o'clock in the morning, was not a matter of the slightest importance. It had been made to appear that they were starting out at break of day with their slippers and underclothes on, as conspirators intent only on betraying the interests of their country, and when the Canadian delegation came there was a reporter on hand, but the delegation did not wish him to be present at the interview and he did not come in. When the American delegation came there was no reporter present, but a reporter was called in from one of the departments to take down what transpired, that none of the points raised might be overlooked in the subsequent consideration.

To Consult Parliament.

The Premier read the provision of the statute which had been alluded to by Mr. Whitney, relating to the imposition of restrictions on license-holders, and put the question as to whether it did not mean that these restrictions should be imposed before the sale and not after it. He advanced the proposition that any restrictions which might be imposed should be consistent with the rights of property which had been sold to the license-holders and for which they had paid their money. If there was a reasonable doubt on this point, then, he said, it was the duty of the Government to submit the matter to Parliament and not pass an order in Council this year. They resolved that they should not deal with the licenses this year. Because it had been urged that it was a breach of the contract and a confiscation of property rights, because it would be violating one of the fundamental maxims upon which

monarchical institutions is based, that the honor of the Crown is the best security of the subject, the Government thought it was better that they should not deal with the question so far as it referred to the business of this year. Mr. Whitney had spoken as if these American lumbermen were plunderers and thieves. Having decided not to interfere with the licenses for this year, the next question was as to the licenses hereafter. The Premier told of the magnitude of the interests involved in the industry, and said that if through the action of the Government these had been prejudicially affected, the Opposi-

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