

operation until approved by the House. I have already said that we have precedents for this course. It was an important question, and the hon. gentleman who replied to the Commissioner of Crown Lands has admitted that it was, as it is, the most important question before this House in years. We were not in the position either to promulgate our decision or discuss the matter in the same way as hon. gentlemen could do. We therefore felt it was our bounden duty not to make any announcement absolutely and fully of our policy until we had met the House, when we could do it properly and in a constitutional way. The Government has announced its policy upon the floor of Parliament, which is the place of all places where it should be announced and where it is always announced, except in cases of emergency. (Applause.) The hon. gentlemen opposite say it should have been announced along in October. It could have done no good if it had been. The export season was over; no exports have taken place between that time and the present. It would not have carried out anything at all which my hon. friend desires. It would not have prevented the exportation of a single log—(cheers)—the exportation was over in September. If my hon. friend means that we should have placed an embargo upon the logs which have been cut and were in the woods for export, I take issue with him. That would have been a breach of faith with men who had gone into the woods under the authority of their licenses and cut the logs for export, expending their money and putting perhaps their whole fortune into the season's operations, if we had come down from the privacy of the Council chamber, retracted our word and placed an embargo upon these logs. (Cheers.) That would have been a strange business transaction, such as would have raised international questions, given rise to a lot of claims for damages, and if the hon. gentleman would have pursued such a policy and imposed regulations so extreme and hazardous I do not hesitate to say the country would have pronounced him unworthy to hold the seals of State and unworthy to have the interests of a great Province in his keeping. (Cheers.) We therefore adopted the precaution of passing a regulation so as to keep within the letter of the statute and contract. In our advertisements this clause is always included:—"The berths sold to be subject to the Crown timber regulations, except in so far as said regulations may be inconsistent with any conditions herein specified, and to such orders in Council as now exist or may hereafter be passed." That is why we adopted the order in Council, in order that we might be strictly within the letter of the contract and the letter of the law. We kept strictly within the letter of the contract and of the law, and therefore we have adopted a principle that will commend itself to the approval of the House. Mr. Marter proceeded to quote my observations, knowing well that these observations had reference to licenses already issued. I have always made a distinction between licenses already issued and current and licenses to be issued for another year. Mr. Marter, with a strange notion of what was proper, attempted to apply my language as to good faith to this bill, which provides for licenses

to be issued hereafter. If he will do that sort of thing on the floor of the House we have some reason to know what he will do when there is nobody to answer him. Such a course is not courageous and is something that we would not expect from the hon. gentleman. (Hear, hear.) It seems to indicate that he thinks we have short memories. There has not been a word uttered by me on any occasion in reference to this subject that is not in full conformity both to the letter and the spirit of the measure before the House. Therefore, when I make a distinction between licenses granted already for this year and those which are to be issued hereafter I do so in accordance with the spirit of the contract and the letter of the law which has been passed, and under which sales have been made.

Talk and Action.

We had the responsibility of action; the hon. gentleman had the responsibility of talking. There was just that difference. Any action taken by us touched the whole business interests of the lumbermen. To get up and denounce in strong language something as being pro-American or something as being anti-British, touching a matter involving millions of money, involving property rights and the faith of the Crown, is not a proper or reasonable method of discussion. Shall we break our bargain? It is not merely a question of faith, but the question of our bargain. Shall we endeavor to thwart those with whom we have made a contract? Every individual member of this House who signs a contract is bound by it. Is the Province in any different position when we have made a bona-fide, honest contract? Was it consistent with the duty of the State or the honor of the Crown that we should attempt to break the bargain we had entered into because the purchasers were going to take out of the country the logs they had paid for? Mr. Whitney says they are going to take out more this year than formerly. Some man told him. How preposterous! What more does some man know about it than he does? He talks of some man who is perhaps as mad upon the subject as my hon. friend pretends to be.

Mr. Whitney—I said that one man had told me so no later than to-day, and I said that I had also had it from a number of expert lumbermen.

Mr. Hardy—Some man told him so. Perhaps there were "scores of letters every day." (Laughter.) Who was the one man? What means has he of knowing? Has he visited all the lumber camps as the rangers under our authority have? The hon. gentlemen have been telling the country that the lumbermen are cutting 500,000,000 feet of logs, whereas that information can only be gathered by men going through the books and ascertaining what the returns are. Mr. Whitney would lead us to understand that they are going to take out this 500,000,000 feet secretly, without the country knowing anything about it, notwithstanding the fact that every log has to be recorded. It were better that twice that amount should be taken out than that we should break our bargain, than that we should prostitute our