

for use in case of war. But that was about completed, the war was over and prices of raw material were resuming their normal level. Therefore, the prison manufacture of binder twine would shortly be resumed.

Mr. Hoyle (North Ontario) and Mr. Kidd (Carleton) spoke, criticizing the Government's methods of disposing of the twine, and asking that the output of the prison be distributed through the Farmers' Institutes or other agricultural agencies, instead of, as at present, being sold to a company for disposal.

#### The Lumber Question Again.

Mr. Whitney moved for an address to his Honor the Lieutenant-Governor praying that he will cause to be laid before this House a return of copies of all correspondence between his Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, the members of the Ontario Government, or any member thereof, and his Excellency the Governor-General, or the Government of Canada, or any member thereof, with reference to any representations made by any American lumbermen in relation to any legislation passed by this House at its last session, and with relation to the appearance before the Quebec conference at its coming session of eminent counsel on behalf of said American lumbermen with relation to complaints regarding any of the said legislation passed by this House at its last session. In speaking to the motion Mr. Whitney said the answer of the Premier to his questions earlier in the evening had materially shortened the remarks he intended to make. The subject was one of the utmost importance, not only to the lumbermen of the Province, but to people generally, it being well understood that the people as a whole took a lively interest in the situation. He then referred to the action taken at a recent meeting in Toronto of the Lumbermen's Association of Ontario, in which they, after an evident difference of opinion, passed a resolution declaring in favor of free logs for free timber. He emphasized the serious nature of the position and referred to the fact that the American lumbermen were going to be represented by counsel at the Quebec conference, and said it would be incumbent upon the Government to see that the interests of the Province were looked after by competent persons at that conference. There was no doubt that those gentlemen intended to do all in their power to do away with the legislation passed last session, or at any rate to get some equivalent for the injury which from their point of view they claimed to have been done. He therefore urged the bringing down of as many papers bearing on the subject as was in the power of the Attorney-General, and as far as his discretion would allow.

#### Mr. Hardy's Reply.

Mr. Hardy, in reply, again referred to the confidential nature of the correspondence or negotiations and said he was not at liberty at this time to bring it down. While not entering fully into the question, he thought he would be justified in bringing a few matters relating to the question to the attention of the House, and he intimated that John M. Dickinson, of Lansing,

and a Detroit gentleman had made a complaint against the act passed at the last session, claiming that the act was in contravention of the original contract of the sale of timber limits, and that the Ontario Government were violating that confidence, and praying for the withdrawal of disallowance of the act. Mr. Hardy said he took the ground in his reply of opposing the proposition throughout. He drew attention to the fact that the British North America act placed the management and sale of public land and the timber and wood thereon in the hands of the Province. The Dominion Government transmitted the reply, and nothing had of course been done beyond that, and therefore the conference was not at liberty to deal with the matter without the consent of the Province, or without making some arrangement. Mr. Hardy then recalled that it was suggested with some levity and not a little incredulity when the act was passed that international complications might arise out of it. There was no doubt it might be a grave question on the ground, as contended by

the Americans, that the Ontario Government had virtually confiscated the property of the American lumbermen, and varied by act of Parliament the terms under which they bought their limits, and under which the limits were sold. The contention of the Government was twofold: That they were simply carrying out the act in accordance with the regulations and terms of sale, and that they had kept within those limits. But even if they had not they themselves must be the judges of what should be the timber policy that they should adopt for the preservation and perpetuation of their timber resources, both for purposes of revenue and for the use of the people of the Province. (Applause.) They had planted themselves squarely on that ground. If the matter is to come up at the Quebec conference, is to be brought up by eminent counsel, of course the Government of Ontario would have notice, and the rights of the Province—its right to legislate and make regulations as far as law would permit, and as far as constitutional authorities would enable them to do—would be defended. (Applause.) That was where they stood at present. There was a difference of opinion, as Mr. Whitney had pointed out, even among those who were the most urgent in connection with the presentation of the measure which became law last session. The Premier did not himself claim credit for whatever might have been done in the past with the bill, or for any special individual suggestion, nor did he assent to the proposition that it was the policy of any particular hon. gentleman. Both himself and the hon. members took the matter in hand, and the lumbermen passed resolutions, putting themselves on record, showing where they very largely stood, and they themselves perhaps only repeated what could be called the dormant sentiment which was awaiting only the occasion to give it voice, to make it speak, simply because they could all see what had taken place. Mr. Hardy then discussed the history of the commercial relations between Ontario and the States in the matter of logs