

Charges that the Dominion Government have, without notice to the Province, practically confiscated 55,000 acres of land belonging to the Province, and the rights vested in Ontario in respect to timber thereon, were made by Premier Whitney just before the adjournment of the Legislature yesterday evening. The area is a portion of the new Petewawa military camp. It was under timber license, and negotiations had been in progress between the two Governments with a view to settling with the licensees so that the Dominion authorities might add it to the acreage previously acquired for the camp as a result of agreements with settlers and others. The Provincial Government had offered the 55,000 acres mentioned for lease for a long period at a nominal rental. The Premier's statement was received with attentive silence, broken only when he declared in closing that if necessary in order to assert its rights the case of the Province would be taken to the foot of the throne. He exonerated Sir Wilfrid Laurier and "the principal members" of the Dominion Government from knowledge of the action taken, placing the blame wholly upon Sir Frederick Borden. The Premier also expressed the view that the contention of the Minister of Militia that the action is justifiable under section 117 of the British North America act, giving the Dominion the right to expropriate lands required for fortification or the defence of the country, did not apply in this case. In asking the attention of the House Premier Whitney referred to the matter as one of the "utmost seriousness."

An Exchange of Telegrams.

The Premier read the correspondence bearing on the question, which opened with a letter from the Under Secretary of State, dated Ottawa, March 22 last, to the Lieut.-Governor, stating that the Governor-General in Council had decided to "assume" the lands mentioned, subject to the rights and interests, "as they now exist," of the timber licensees. This communication was, of course, handed to the Premier, and an exchange of telegrams between him and Sir Frederick Borden followed, the latter finally sending the following:—

"Your telegram re Petawawa lands, late Provincial Government having promised lease of Crown lands within Petawawa camp site for ninety-nine