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URGES ACTION ON FORESTRY MATTERS

Mr. McDougal's Suggestion to the Government.

IMMIGRATION PROBLEMS.

Salvation Army Methods Are Warmly Endorsed.

Messrs. McDougal and Clarke Agree With Sir James Whitney in Re- spect to the Excellent Work of the Dominion Government and the Army.

In response to a question from Mr. McDougal in the Legislature yesterday as to the Government's general plan in tackling the problem of forestry, Hon. Mr. Cochrane stated that the whole matter had for some time been under consideration. "It is well that we should recognize," observed the Minister, "that any effective tackling of the forestry project means a great deal of thought, time and money." There were, he said, timber licenses still in vogue which had been granted in 1832, before confederation. As these had been transferred from time to time, the Government being a party to the transfer, they could not in equity be cancelled suddenly. It was the desire of the department to withdraw large tracts of timber land on equitable terms. "We do not expect to be able to make any announcement this year," added the Minister, "but next year we hope to have something to submit to the House."

The time had come, continued Mr. Cochrane, when some of the aged timber in the reserves must be cut under regulation. The advisability of creating another large reserve in the Rainy River district was also under consideration.

Mr. McDougal asked as to timber growths on the Crown lands outside of the reserves.

The Minister of Lands said that a policy had been adopted under which no pine timber would be sold unless absolutely necessary to protection from fire or of timber damaged by fire. "If there are any more general sales," commented Mr. Cochrane, "there will be new regulations as to cutting and taking off the timber."

Suggests Forestry Commission.

Mr. McDougal was of the opinion that the Government would be justified in proceeding with some constructive action immediately. "I suggest to the Government," said he, "the appointment of a commission of three competent gentlemen to visit the forests in different countries of the old world and submit a report thereon. If we can believe reports from those countries a tremendous revenue is continuously derived from the forests."

Sir James Whitney drew attention to the different conditions obtaining in Germany and Prussia. "It would," said the Premier, "take half a million of men to conserve the forests as they do there."

Mr. Valentine Stock (Perth) suggested that the department could with advantage offer good farms of, say, 160 acres in the northern clay belt in exchange for farms of settlers in the Muskoka districts, which were not suitable for agricultural purposes.

Mr. R. R. Gamey (Manitoulin) concurred in the suggestion.

The Immigration Problem.

Mr. Alan Studholme precipitated a debate on the immigration policy of the Government by moving that the items of \$8,334 for the Salvation Army and \$20,000 for Government immigration work in Great Britain should be struck out. Incidentally he objected to the amounts appearing in the public accounts as payments to cover the travelling expenses of the Premier and the late Minister of Agriculture in regard to their trip to the old country last year. Mr. Studholme did not object to the money actually spent on colonization. To the actual settler he wished "God-speed," but he objected to people being brought out who only found on their arrival that there was nothing for them to do and went to fill the jails as vagrants. Ninety per cent. of the occupants of the jails were of that class.

Hon. W. J. Hanna—Your figures are utterly wrong. The Minister of Agriculture interposed to say that of the vote of \$58,000 taken last year only \$33,000 was spent.

The Premier's Statement.

The Premier said that the jails of Ontario, far from

being full, could accommodate three-quarters as many more people as were in them at the present time. "I speak of what I know," said Sir James, "when I say that I know no service of greater value to the people of Ontario in regard to immigration than that of the Salvation Army. He is simply retailing what he has heard on the sidewalks. I know that the Salvation Army has done what no other agency has ever attempted to do. It has taken men to the steamer, classified them, and on the way across hand-picked them, so to speak, and brought everyone to the door of a house where a man was wanted."

With regard to the trip of the late Minister of Agriculture and himself to England the Premier spoke highly of the work which had been carried out by the Hon. Nelson Monteith. He himself had been occupied for four hours in each day in giving information to people who desired it about Ontario, and as a result of their visit it had been decided to bring the Government's agents more closely into touch with the rural population instead of wasting money on expensive offices in London. The Dominion Government, he considered, deserved credit for the work they had done in connection with the Dominion exhibition in London. He had watched the streams of people who went there seeking information, and as a result had decided on the change of policy he mentioned and thus saved the Province many thousands of dollars. Already there had been a number of farmers come to Ontario and purchased farms, although he pointed out that the Province was at somewhat of a disadvantage because many of the immigrants of the agricultural class were drawn away by the stories they heard of the Northwest a short time after they had arrived in Ontario.

Mr. R. J. McCormack, Mr. S. Clarke and Mr. D. J. McDougal all endorsed what the Premier said with regard to the work of the Salvation Army and with regard to the work of the Dominion Government, and Mr. Studholme's motion was declared lost.

Oratorical Fireworks.

Oratorical fireworks and acrimonious comment characterized portions of the discussion of Mr. Finlay G. Macdiarmid's bill to give municipalities power to issue licenses to itinerant merchants, the maximum amount to be defined by statute, and which was discussed by the Municipal Committee of the Legislature yesterday.

Finally there was so great an uproar that the Chairman said: "If we cannot have order we must adjourn," and he directed that the bill stand over for consideration when the members were better prepared to discuss it in a reasonable and orderly manner.