

# LOOTING OF TREASURY CHARGED BY MR. BOWMAN

## Vigorous Denunciation of Purchase of Pembroke Lumber Company's Limits in Algonquin Park—Liberals Declare They Are Not Worth the Money.

"If this bill as it now stands becomes law it means a most deliberate looting and plundering of the Provincial Treasury for the benefit of the active political friends of the Government, and we desire to protest in the strongest possible manner against it."

This was the vigorous denunciation made by Mr. C. M. Bowman (North Bruce) in the Legislature last night against the proposal of the Government to spend \$185,000 to purchase the limits of the Pembroke Lumber Co. in Algonquin Park. It was no mild, passing protest that was made by the Opposition. Since the second reading of the bill a few days ago Mr. Bowman had fortified himself with the details contained in the report on the limits brought down by Hon. W. H. Hearst. He analyzed the figures, and ascertained the average quantity of each kind of wood on the 195,000 acres comprising the limits, and ventured the statement that no lumberman of any standing would consider the transaction as a commercial proposition for a minute. He moved an amendment to the first clause in committee that the amount of \$185,000 be stricken out and \$25,000 substituted therefor, although he argued, without pressing the point, that when the land involved was annexed to Algonquin Park the rights of the licensees ceased immediately.

Hon. Mr. Hearst replied with some heat. He expressed surprise at the language used by Mr. Bowman, and declared that no transaction had ever included within the boundaries of Algonquin Park and they were deprived of the right to cut hardwood. On the general policy of conservation and reforestation both parties were agreed, although they might differ as to method. He asserted the broad principle that the Crown had the right at any time to acquire a license granted to cut timber from any limits in the Province.

The limits of the Pembroke Lumber Company, Mr. Bowman went on, had been under license for from sixty to seventy years. They had been well cut over, and during the past ten years the amount of timber that had been cut did not exceed 5,000,000 feet board measure. During the last three years a still less quantity had been taken off because the cost of getting the timber out would not make the work profitable.

When the matter was first brought to the attention of the House by the Minister he had hoped that the deal would be a good one for the Province. "But I have been forced after careful examination and analysis of the figures to come to the conclusion that never in the history of this Legislature has a more improvident proposition been placed before the House, and never in the history of the Legislature have the members been asked to vote upon a proposition that contains so little merit as this." (Liberal applause.)

### Small Resources Here.

In support of his argument Mr. Bowman went over the entire limits berth by berth and showed the average per acre of the various kinds of timber. White pine was only 52 feet board measure, red pine three feet, spruce 11 feet, hemlock 22 feet, hemlock 22 feet, cedar 1½ feet, ash 1-3 foot, oak ¾ foot, elm 1-39 foot, poplar ½ cord, spruce pulpwood ¼ cord, balsam 1-3 cord, hardwood 1 4-5 cords. In view of the scattered situation of all this timber he declined to accept the estimate that the wood was worth \$7 per thousand feet. It would cost a great deal more to bring it to the sawmill than the lumber

been negotiated by the department where more care had been taken to secure all the information possible, and he had the statement on the best of authority that the limits were worth much more than what the Government had been asked to pay.

Proceeding with his criticism of the transaction, Mr. Bowman pointed out that as a matter of strict law the rights of the licensees had lapsed entirely when the land in question was

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## Abolish-the-bar Debate on Tuesday Next

The debate on Mr. Rowell's "abolish the bar" resolution in the Legislature has been definitely fixed for Tuesday next. The House will adjourn for Easter from Thursday until Tuesday. It is not expected that the debate will be concluded that afternoon, as a complimentary dinner given by the Cabinet to the Conservative members will take place Tuesday evening at the Albany Club, which means there will be no night sitting.