

REPLY TO
THE TORY CAMPAIGN PAMPHLET
AS TO CERTAIN
CROWN LANDS MATTERS.

In the Tory campaign pamphlet considerable space is devoted to an attack on the Crown Lands Department in connection with the settlement of the wild lands of the Province. Some of the statements are manufactured out of whole cloth, in others the facts are distorted, whilst in others the truth is concealed. It is always a difficult matter to deal shortly and clearly with the ingenious falsehood or half-lie, and as these are the main characteristics of the pamphlet in question it would require considerable time and space to trace out the sinuosities of the numerous mis-statements, exaggerations and concealments. It is not, therefore, proposed to do more than take some of the most salient charges and expose their unfair and untruthful character.

The Charges as to Crown Lands Expenditure and Settlement.

One of the principal charges is that from 1875 to 1883, the expenditure in connection with the Crown Lands Department was nearly \$900,000, and during that period 5,863 persons are reported as having settled in Ontario free grant localities; that from 1884 to 1892 the expenditure in connection with the Crown Lands Department was over \$1,000,000, while the number of settlers was only 2,838; that in 1891, when the expenditure was 50 per cent. more, the settlers were 100 per cent. less in number. (See page 24 of pamphlet.)

The answer:—It would be a difficult matter to cram any greater quantity of nonsense into a paragraph of this length than is here done. The number of persons actually located on free grant lands between 1875 and 1883 inclusive, was 12,671—not 5,863. Nine hundred thousand dollars would represent probably 90 per cent. of the total expenditure of the Department for all purposes during this period—salaries in the Department, salaries for the outside service, timber agents, forest rangers, Crown Lands agents, inspections, survey of lands, mining surveys, timber surveys, etc., etc.—but here it is all lumped as against free grant locations. The actual cost of the Free Grants Branch of the Department, and of the outside agents and their expenses for this period amounts to about \$80,000, or less than \$9,000 per annum, and this is really what should be charged against that particular service.

In the second period, that is, from 1884 to 1892 inclusive, the number of locations on free grant lands was 7,793; not 2,838 as stated in the pamphlet. Here again, one million dollars is placed against this service, whereas the actual cost of this particular service would not be more than \$90,000.

The statement that the difference between \$900,000 and \$1,000,000 is an increase of 50 per cent. carries its own refutation, and how it is possible that after a decrease of *one hundred per cent.* (which must wipe out everything) there should remain 2,838 locations still to the good, as stated in the pamphlet, it is difficult to understand.