

FACTS OF THE MATTER

But, getting down to facts. We find that in 1894 the Liberal Government of that day passed legislation in this House which took the minerals from the settlers—that was not the kind of suit of clothes we stole, was it? I suppose the hon. gentleman is ready now to repudiate the Liberalism of the past; don't want anything to do with it. In another sentence he said that the Hon. Mr. Arthur Sturgis Hardy and the Liberal leaders were the great men of the Province of Ontario. Then, Sir, it would appear that he, to some extent, approved of the actions of those gentlemen in the past, and we find that in 1880 the Liberal Government amended the Free Grants Act against the settlers, and took the pine away from the settlers; and, let me say, that from 1894 to 1905, when the Conservative Party came in, it was not a question of whether the settlers would not get the timber or the minerals, but it was a question as to whether the settler would get anything at all or not. I tell you, Sir, the hon. gentleman knows only too well that all through that north country settlers were crying out against the regulations of that day, and that disputes were piling up at the Parliament Buildings until, when the present Hon. Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines came into the Government of this Province, hundreds of disputes lay there unsettled. It would take one of the most capable men in Canada to have cleared up those disputes in the short time we have been in the Government of this country.

SETTLERS HAD NO RIGHTS

We found when we came in thousands of settlers in the North country who had been permitted by the late Government to settle here and there all through the country as squatters. The Liberal Government gave them no rights; they had not even a title to the lands of any kind. Where was the hon. member for the Soo in those days? Pleading for the settlers? Where were the Liberal leaders who are to-day so anxious that the settler should get the pine and the minerals? Why, they were practically robbing the settler, and letting the disputes pile up by the hundred until the people turned them out of office. More has been done by this Government in thrashing out titles, settling disputes, putting the men in that country in possession of their rights as soon as it could be done, in getting matters ready for the legislation which has just been introduced; more has been done in the last two years in this and other ways than the Liberals have ever done during all their administration. **Talk about stealing their clothes!** Why, Sir, what nonsense! Who would go back and steal that

of clothes they wore in 1905 when they were snowed under? Who would pick up a suit of clothes such as the one the Liberal party lost in 1905? **Why, Sir, I venture to say there is not an inmate of the Central Prison who would not be ashamed to be caught with that suit of clothes on.** (Applause.)