

RESOLUTION OF CONGRATULATION.

As soon as the cheers which followed the speech ceased, Mr. J. L. Fowke, seconded by Mr. P. R. Hoover, moved the following resolution :

"This meeting desires to express its pleasure in welcoming the Premier on this visit to his old constituency, which will never cease to be proud of the fact that it was the first to return to the Canadian Parliament that statesman who has done so much to place and maintain our fair Province in the enviable position which it now occupies.

"We have watched with the most friendly interest and admiration the Premier's able conduct of our Provincial affairs, his masterly defence of our Provincial territorial rights and liberties against all aggressors, and his careful and economical husbanding of our financial resources. We have been delighted with the exhibition on this occasion of that strong and comprehensive grasp of public questions which he has always shown, and we rejoice at this opportunity of expressing our renewed confidence in him and his Government, and our wish that he may long continue to control the helm of state as Premier of this Province."

*Note.*—The Premier, in the above speech, set down the value of the timber of the Province at \$50,000,000, pointing out that the valuation of Mr. Dennis, the Deputy Minister of the Interior, and other facts mentioned, showed a value in 1887 of \$128,025,000; but that, to avoid all controversy as to value, he placed the value at the reduced figure of \$50,000,000. Oddly enough, after the speech was delivered and reported in the public journals, the Lieutenant Governor received a despatch from the Dominion Government, dated 23rd February, 1891, to the effect that Mr. Dennis' estimate was really but 2,000 million feet, b.m., and not as Mr. D. himself had stated, 28,000 million feet. Mr. Dennis gave the larger figure in a letter so long ago as 1879, when applied to for information by a gentleman, Mr. Dymond, who had asked for the facts for the purposes of a pamphlet which he was preparing for the Ontario Government respecting the extent and resources of our North-West Territory. The naming of 28,000 millions instead of 2,000 millions is attributed to an error in transcribing the letter from shorthand notes. It appears that on receiving a copy of the pamphlet, Mr. Dennis and his secretary wrote to the author of the pamphlet, stating the error, and suggesting that it should be corrected in some way. As the pamphlet had been published, and as Mr. Dymond doubted whether the new figure was more accurate than the one first given, he did nothing in consequence of the letters. It is curious that those who were responsible for the original statement allowed it to remain for 15 years without public correction, so far as known. Still, accepting the correction, the reduced amount of 50 million dollars, named in the speech as the value of our timber, is 50 per cent. under the real value according even to the corrected estimate, as the following figures show:—

The area of unlicensed territory in 1887 according to the Crown Lands officers, estimated by them and not by Mr. Dennis, was 24,410 square miles, and was estimated by them to contain an average of one million feet per square mile, the estimated bonus per thousand being \$1.50, and \$1 for dues, together \$2.50, which would make the value of the 24,410 miles . . . . .	\$61,025,000
Add for the remainder at the reduced estimate of 2,000 millions of feet (instead of 28,000 millions), and the value would be . . . . .	5,000,000
Add for the dues on the licensed territory according to the estimate . . . . .	10,000,000

Making in all for the standing timber in 1887 no less a sum than . . . . . \$76,025,000 instead of the Premier's more moderate estimate of \$50,000,000. The difference will cover several times over the deductions for sales timber cut, and fires since 1887. So much for the value of one item of those Provincial assets which either produce revenue now or are available for that purpose in the future.