

of, and which, if not carefully husbanded in the future, will leave in a few years nothing to be said about it by the people of Ontario but to dwell upon the recollection of the immense asset of provincial wealth which belonged to the people of this province, and which was dissipated and frittered away by men who had not the interests of the province at heart. (Loud and continued applause)

#### AS TO PULPWOOD CONCESSIONS.

Then, there is the other great Provincial asset, the pulpwood. One can hardly estimate the amount and value of the pulpwood of this province. And why cannot you estimate it? Because you cannot get any information about it, because the motion of Mr. Meredith was thrown aside, and we have never had any investigation or survey from which to form an opinion or arrive at a conclusion about it. We had surveyors a year ago sent out, and while I have no personal knowledge on the question, those who know more about lumber than Mr. E. J. Davis, for instance, tell me that the number of square miles handed over to each party of ten men to survey was ten times the quantity that that number of men could survey—(applause)—and consequently we are to-day practically in the dark as to the amount and value of this wonderful asset known as our pulpwood.

Well, there have been a number of pulpwood concessions, about which there has been a great deal of talk. Several years ago a couple of concessions were granted by the Legislature, and the Legislature granted them practically blindfold; it was an absolute impossibility to know whether the terms and conditions of these concessions were reasonable or unreasonable, but the Legislature thought, and I thought, not unreasonably, that it would be well to give these men at first something in the nature of a free hand in order that we might be able to see and the people learn what the amount and value of this asset of ours was, so that we would be able to deal with it in an intelligible way afterwards, and two or three of these concessions were granted.

There are two things strange about these agreements; the first thing is that it would take a pretty good lawyer more than one day to read and construe them properly, and they are utterly unintelligible to the lay reader. One of the first things that strikes one is this, that in several of these concessions it is laid down that the person receiving the concession may delimit or measure off forty or fifty or sixty square miles—they vary. Take one at fifty; he may delimit 50 square miles, and as you read this section your opinion will be that he gets 50 square miles and no more, but strange to say, a little further on you will find that he shall be obliged—he is to erect a mill, and so on—he shall be obliged each year to cut off the 50 square miles one twenty-first part of all his yearly cut for that year, and the other twenty twenty-first parts of his yearly cut he can get elsewhere, so that instead of getting 50 or 60 square miles he gets between 1,200 and 2,500 square miles, and there is nobody knows really yet, because the question has never been discussed in court, how much these concessions do cover! Now, then, we protested against that, and in the case of one, the Spanish River concession, we proposed an amendment, which I will read to you:

"This House is of opinion that all grants of pulpwood lands should be made subject to public competition, and that all dues on Crown timber should be regulated from time to time by this House; and this House is also of opinion that steps should be taken to enquire into the extent and nature of the timber resources of the province, in order that the members of this House may be able to form an intelligent judgment upon the subject of timber and pulpwood dues."

Timber limits are sold subject to public competition, and why should not the pulpwood limits be sold subject to competition? That was voted down. Was there anything wrong in it? Will you find anyone who in private conversation will tell you there was anything in that proposition that was wrong?