

The Ontario Government will not of its own motion take the course indicated. It deliberately assumed a false position for the purpose of securing political advantage. It does not possess the courage to abandon a false and indefensible position, and if left alone will drift on until impending disaster befalls us. For the sake of international interests cannot some means be devised for removing this vexatious and disgraceful obstacle. It strikes me that pressure from the Home Government could never find a more legitimate case for application. I beg that you will excuse the liberty I have taken in writing you, confidentially, upon this matter. I would have written before, but saw no prospect of producing an impression on the very queer specimen of a Government at Toronto. The entering of the suit—the dawning of the idea that heavy damages may follow—the near approach of the critical stage of negotiations before the Commission, and the possibility that the Dominion Government is more fully alive than it formerly was to the importance of this matter, are the reasons which have induced me to write to you.

With assurance of a deep desire to promote the highest interests of the English speaking race.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN CHARLTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 13.

Mr. Tower to Mr. J. Charlton.

Dear Mr. Charlton,

Washington, June 29, 1899.

YOUR letter of the 26th instant concerning the Ontario Log Export Embargo Law has just been received.

The matter seems to me to be one which can only properly be dealt with by the Dominion Government, and I assume that you have conferred with Sir W. Laurier upon the possibility of action being taken at Ottawa, with a view to obtaining the result which you suggest.

It would appear in every way more expedient that any action should be taken through the official channel, and I do not feel justified in making any representation to Her Majesty's Government on the matter without first being informed of the present views of the Dominion Government.

Would it not therefore be advisable that the first step should be made by the Governor-General, in whatever manner his Excellency should consider most advisable?

I should be pleased to do anything in my power to relieve the present situation, but I cannot believe that any private suggestion on my part to the Foreign Office, in the absence of the official views of the Ottawa Government, could tend to a successful issue.

I have, &c.
(Signed) REGINALD TOWER.

No. 14.

Foreign Office to Colonial Office.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 15, 1899.

WITH reference to your letter of the 6th October, 1898, and to previous correspondence respecting the Lumber Act recently passed in the Province of Ontario, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to transmit to you a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Washington,* inclosing copies of letters exchanged with Mr. John Charlton, one of Her Majesty's High Commissioners, and I am to request that Lord Salisbury may be favoured with Mr. Secretary Chamberlain's observations on Mr. Charlton's suggestion, that the Act should be suspended by the Government of Ontario.

I am, &c.
(Signed) F. H. VILLIERS.