

sufficient to convict hon. members elected here by the independent electors to represent their views and act for them, of transactions which will damage their character. The hon. gentleman's record may be clean—I hope it is clean. With respect to timber limits, I am not in a position to trace him. He has carried on his work outside this country; he has gone elsewhere, with his labor and his money, to develop another country than his own. That may possibly be right in his view, because I think his connection with that country in the past, would lead the House to believe that he was more interested in that country than in this. He has taken, as I have said, his great energy, industry and wealth outside this country to develop another, and he has gone into timber limit speculations elsewhere, and it is not our privilege to follow him there, as we might possibly do if we possessed the same facilities he has to reach files of documents. I say that in all the communications I have had with the Department of the Interior, there is not one document that I would have the slightest hesitation in having spread on the Table of this House as being of such a character as not to be a proper and fair one from a member representing a constituency of some 25,000 or 30,000 people. It is my duty, as the representative of my county, to facilitate in every possible way the interests of my constituents, and the Government policy is of that character to be open and free to all who may take an interest in helping to develop the great North-West—and that is the object they have mainly in view, for it is not that they might benefit individual gentlemen—and they had a great public duty to discharge in developing the new territory which had been lying for centuries a perfect wilderness and would have been allowed to lie for more centuries if its development had rested with hon. gentlemen opposite. What is the evidence presented to this House, that with the single exception of the two gentlemen whose names have been mentioned, who have taken some interest in the country, who have made some wealth in it—and I congratulate them upon it—the hon. member for West Huron (Mr. Cameron) and the hon. member for Centre Huron (Sir Richard Cartwright); these two gentlemen have been successful; they have invested largely, they took an interest in the country, and they went into that market and made their purchases. But when the hon. member for West Huron, representing as he does a constituency himself, rises in his place time after time and endeavors to damage the character of men who are just as respectable and intelligent as himself, while he claims the privilege of associating with gentlemen on the floor of this House, when the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor) read a list, which if he had been in the House ought to have caused him to hold his head down and blush,—I say that it is out of place for that hon. gentleman and he should be the last man to make these charges against those who stand equally as respectable as he does, who have simply written a few letters on behalf of constituents who are asking for that which they have a perfect right to obtain, under the law of the land. With regard to myself, I may say that I have no favors to ask of them; it requires no favor from them to make me a Conservative or a supporters of the Government. I am a Conservative by birth, education and instinct. I am a Conservative because I believe that the policy of the Conservative party is the best for this country, and if any requests I have made had been refused I would still be a Conservative and support the Government in their policy. He contended that hon. gentlemen are influenced in this House simply because they are taking the Government at its word, simply because the Government have been placed in circumstances in which they have been called upon to open up that great territory and assist in developing the country; simply because we have assisted others to go there and invest their money, as I have done

Mr. HANCOX.

myself in some town speculations that have not turned out well and, as has been stated by the Minister of the Interior, in almost every one of those cases the Government have received large sums of money into the Treasury from the Conservative party because hon. gentlemen opposite repudiated having done anything in that country by either taking advantage of the Government regulations or attempting anything or doing anything in that country. The policy of gentlemen opposite has not been to direct their energies to the development of the country but to devote their energies in that direction to countries other than their own. Yet we are charged with plundering the country, simply because we have asked on behalf of our constituents that they shall receive such terms and conditions as the Government are by law prepared to give to other individuals. I might go into the history of some of these transactions with which my name has been identified as having made applications for timber limits in that country. I have not been connected with grazing lands, though I have been requested by respectable gentlemen on the other side to enter into such speculations—these gentlemen endeavoring to induce me to take an interest in them because, I suppose, they thought they could trap me into it, and it would be a sort of salvage for them to be able to say the hon. member for North Perth should be interested in these transactions. My hands, I say, are free, and I have no transaction to the extent of a single dollar with them, either in the North-West or elsewhere, and I am determined that I shall not have any. My letters on behalf of my son-in-law, a lawyer practising in the city of Toronto, have been referred to. He, I presume, represented some other gentleman there. He made application on one occasion for six or seven townships for colonisation purposes on the terms that the Government were offering. He did that on behalf of the Commercial Travellers Association, of which he was solicitor. He had already in this House obtained an Act of Parliament incorporating them. They had a large surplus which they wished to invest during the time of the boom, and they thought they could make a good investment in the North-West, and they proposed to take up certain tracts of land for the purpose of colonisation. When they investigated the Government conditions, they found them too severe, and they would not take the Government grant. They went to Montreal and they made arrangements with the Canadian Pacific Railway and bought land in the neighborhood of Regina—some eight or ten townships—and they paid cash and had no transactions with the Government at all. They considered the Government terms too straight and they took no investment in them. I considered the same and I took no steps in that direction. I want to say one or two words about another matter. The hon. member for Simcoe has been charged with having had a timber limit granted to him on a certain occasion. Now I happen to know something about that timber limit, not that I was interested in it, but some of my constituents were, and the hon. gentleman will not deny that an Order in Council was passed and that he had the privilege, as the last dying kick of that party, to have that 200 square miles so granted to him as a timber limit, and he had three years to make the selection throughout the country in tracts of 20 square miles—a little here or there as it was best. I wish to explain what I know about the matter of the interest and the credit of the Conservative party which came in power in 1878. Two gentlemen, constituents of my own, who resided in the same town, one now dead, were met by the hon. gentleman, and were told that he could not get this grant confirmed by this Government and get the license required. He knew that he occupied such a position that he could not possibly do that, but he had no hesitation in making terms with these two gentlemen, one of them Mr. Daly, now dead, and the other Mr. Jarvis, and they came here and spent