

ONTARIO'S BIG TIMBER SALE.

THE sale of Ontario timber limits, in the Legislative Chamber of the old Parliament buildings on Thursday, October 13, marked in some respects a memorable meeting. Ontario legislators will not again be called upon to answer to the appeal of "call in de members" within the dingy walls of the old chamber, and there was something suggestive, though possessed of a sombre shading, in the ring of the auctioneer's "going, going, gone, as Ontario's forests to the value of \$2,308,475 were knocked down to the highest bidders.

Seldom, when political excitement has been running at the highest, has a larger audience gathered within these walls, and perhaps at no time within the history of the buildings were more "dimes and dollars, dollars and dimes, as the old jingle goes, represented in any audience that has assembled in the old historic buildings.

THE AUDIENCE.

Lumbermen were present from all parts of Canada and the leading lumber centres of the United States. Among these might be named: John Charlton, M.P., Lynedoch; Allen Gilmour, Trenton; George Bryson, Jun., John Bryson, M.P., Fort Cologne, Q.; Nelson Lolland, Buffalo; Hiram Emery, Bay City; Arthur S. Hill, Maurice Quinn, Saginaw; A. McLennan, Cheboygan, Mich.; T. Charlton, Tonawanda; Matthew Slush, Mount Clemens, Mich.; C. Beck, D. Davidson, Penetanguishene; Alexander Fraser, Westmeath, Q.; C. J. Smith, Ottawa; Alex. Barnet, Renfrew; Hiram A. Calvin, Gauden City, Mich.; A. Pack, Alpena, Mich.; J. W. Fitzgerald, Parry Sound; C. W. Wells, Saginaw; Temple Emery, East Tawas, Mich.; E. Walker Rathbun, Deseronto; H. B. Smith, Owen Sound; J. D. Shier, C. Henderson, W. Webster, Bracebridge; P. M. Guntie, Trenton; H. Waters, Lindsay; James Sharpe, Burk's Falls; C. W. Burns, South River; James Moills, Saginaw, and George H. Miller, Brooklyn. Merrill & King, of Saginaw, and the Whitney estate, of Detroit.

The seat of honor was occupied by Hon. A. S. Hardy, Commissioner of Crown Lands, whose countenance bore a pleased and satisfied expression that might have been taken as a premonition of the success he saw in store for the province, and indicated later in the large sum realized from the sale. On the right of the minister sat Mr. Aubrey White, assistant commissioner of Crown Lands, whose wise counsels, based on a very perfect knowledge of the timber conditions of the province, were frequently disclosed, as the sale proceeded, in whispered conversations between the commissioner and his deputy. The auctioneer's hammer was wielded by Registrar Peter Ryan, whose hand has lost none of its cunning, as one of the cleverest auctioneers of the province, and who by his ready Irish wit kept up interest in the proceedings from beginning to end.

A STUDY OF FACES.

It was a picturesque scene in not a few particulars. The faces were a study. Thomas Murray's was a face that became familiar to nearly everyone before the sale was closed. Pontiac's ex-M.P. is well known to many Toronto citizens, but his shiny silk hat and gold-rimmed spectacles did not want introduction on this occasion, as Mr. Ryan would ever and anon appeal to Mr. Murray to help along the sale when the bidding would commence to drag, just as he would at another time turn to the hero of Halton, Mr. John Waldie, to start some of the more valuable limits with a round bid of say \$5,000 a square mile. The doughty champion of Sunday Observance, Mr. John Charlton, M.P., was a studious onlooker, though the sale closed without anything falling his way. Michigan lumbermen, in the persons of Mr. A. Pack, Alpena, T. Emery, East Tawas, Hiram Emery, Bay City, Arthur S. Hill, Saginaw, A. McLennan, Cheboygan, and others occupied conspicuous places among the bidders.

Others besides lumbermen had timber berths knocked down to them. There is not much connection between millinery and lumber, unless the chip hat is a remote relative, nor between general dry goods and the trees of the forest, but this did not prevent Toronto's well known wholesale milliner, Mr. S. F. McKinnon from putting away \$10,075 of his pile in Ontario limits, and John Drynan, W. A. Murray & Co., going it to the tune of \$38,662.

BERTHS AND BUYERS.

Promptly at the hour of one o'clock the stentorian tones of Mr. Ryan were heard. The berths sold and the buyers were as follows.

Township of Biggar, berth No. 3, concessions 7 to 14, lots 1 to 10, area 13 1/4 square miles; purchaser J. McCoy, price, square mile, \$4,000, total \$53,000.

Township of Butt, berth No. 2, concessions 1 to 4, lots 11 to 35, area 13 1/4 square miles, Hall & Booth; price, per square mile, \$1,200, total, \$16,500. Berth No. 3, cons. 5 to 9, lots 11 to 25, area 12 square miles, T. Murray, price \$500 square mile, total \$6,000. Berth No. 4, concessions 10 to 14, lots 11 to 25, area 11 1/4 square miles, T. Murray, price \$1,600 square mile; total \$18,800. Berth No. 5, concessions 1 to 7, lots 1 to 10, area 11 1/4 square miles, T. Murray, price, \$1,250, total \$14,062.50. Berth No. 6, concessions 8 to 14, lots 1 to 10, area 11 square miles, T. Murray, price \$1,150, total \$12,650.

Township of Finlayson, berth No. 1, concessions 1 to 7, lots 1 to 10, area 10 1/4 square miles, G. W. Pack, price \$1,800, total \$18,450. Berth No. 1, concessions 8 to 14, lots 1 to 10, area 10 1/4 square miles, Beck Manufacturing Co., of Penetang, price \$4,400, total, \$47,300. Berth No. 3, concessions 1 to 7, lots 11 to 20, area 10 square miles, James D. Shier, price \$600 square mile, total \$6,000. Berth No. 4, concessions 8 to 14, lots 11 to 20, area 11 square miles, J. Baird, price \$4,100 square mile, total \$45,100. Berth No. 5, concessions 1 to 7, lots 21 to 30, area 11 square miles, C. A. Millener, price \$1,450 square mile, total \$15,950. Berth No. 6, concessions 8 to 14, lots 21 to 30, area 10 1/4 square miles, J. Waldie, price \$1,300 square mile, total \$13,975. Berth No. 7, concessions 1 to 7, lots 31 to 40, area 11 square miles, Hill & Wells, price \$2,800 square mile, total \$30,800. Berth No. 8, concessions 8 to 14, lots 31 to 40, area 11 square miles, C. Cameron, price \$3,200, total \$35,200.

Township of Hunter, berth No. 3, concessions 1 to 8, lots 21 to 35, area 17 square miles, Gilmour & Co., price \$12,700 square mile, total \$215,900. Berth No. 4, concessions 1 to 8, lots 11 to 20, area 11 1/4 square miles, Gilmour & Co., price \$7,000 square mile, total \$82,250. Berth No. 5, concessions 1 to 8, lots 1 to 10, area 12 1/4 square miles, John Drynan, price \$2,650, total \$32,462.50.

Township of McCraney, berth No. 11, concessions 1 to 7, lots 1 to 10, area 11 1/4 square miles, J. Baird, price \$4,750, total \$53,457.50. Berth No. 2, concessions 8 to 13, lots 1 to 10, area 11 1/4 square miles, A. McArthur, price \$1,800, total \$20,250. Berth No. 3, concessions 1 to 7, lots 11 to 20, area 11 1/2 square miles, Beck Manufacturing Co., price \$900; total \$10,350. Berth No. 4, concessions 8 to 14, lots 11 to 20, area 11 1/2 square miles, A. McArthur, price \$1,800, total \$20,250. Berth No. 5, concessions 1 to 7, lots 21 to 35, area 15 1/4 square miles, John Waldie, price \$2,700, total \$142,525. Berth No. 6, concessions 8 to 14, lots 21 to 35, area 15 square miles, John Waldie, price \$4,100, total \$61,500.

Township of McLaughlin, berth No. 3, concessions 1 to 8, lots 1 to 15, area 15 1/4 square miles, Gilmour & Co., price \$4,900, total \$74,725.

Township of Paxton, berth No. 1, concessions 1 to 7, lots 1 to 10, area 10 1/4 miles, W. Milne, of Ethel, price \$1,000 square mile, total \$10,750. Berth No. 2, concessions 8 to 14, lots 1 to 10, area 11 1/2 square miles, A. McArthur, price \$1,000 square mile, total \$11,500. Berth No. 3, concessions 1 to 7, lots 11 to 20, area 11 square miles, A. McArthur, price \$1,000, total \$11,000. Berth No. 4, concessions 8 to 11, lots 11 to 20, area 11 1/2 square miles, John Gray, price \$7,400, total \$85,100. Berth No. 5, concessions 1 to 7, lots 21 to 30, area 16 1/2 square miles, John Gray, price \$5,700, total \$94,050. Berth No. 6, concessions 8 to 14, lots 21 to 30, area 16 1/2 square miles, price \$7,000 square mile, total \$115,500.

Township of Peck, berth No. 1, concessions 1 to 4, lots 1 to 15, area 9 1/4 square miles, Gilmour & Co., price \$2,600, total \$24,050. Berth No. 2, concessions 5 to 9, lots 1 to 15, area 10 1/2 square miles, Gilmour & Co., price \$5,900 square mile, total \$61,950. Berth No. 3, concessions 10 to 14, lots 1 to 15, area 11 1/4 square miles, Gilmour & Co., price \$3,500, total \$39,375. Berth No. 4, concessions 1 to 4, lots 16 to 29, area 7 square miles, W. Dymont, price \$2,700, total \$28,900. Berth No. 5, concessions 5 to 9, lots 16 to 29, area 8 1/2 square miles,

Hill & Wells, price \$3,400, total \$28,900. Berth No. 6, concessions 10 to 14, lots 16 to 29, area 11 1/4 square miles, Gilmour & Co., price \$17,500, total \$205,625.

Township of MacLennan, north part of berth No. 49, area 13 square miles, Hall & Emery, price \$4,400, total \$57,200.

Algoma district, Township of Lumsden, concessions 1 to 6, lots 1 to 11, area 31 1/4 square miles, C. Campbell, price \$3,100 square mile, total \$96,875. Township Morgan, concessions 1 to 6, lots 1 to 12, area 35 1/4 square miles, G. Pack, Alpena, Mich.; price \$10,600, total \$373,650. Berth on west side Pogramasing Lake, area 4 square miles, W. Stewart, price \$7,460, total \$29,600.

Thunder Bay district, berth No. 1, adjoining the Township of Pardee, area 12 square miles, J. F. Coleman, price \$2,800, total \$33,600. Berth No. 7, area 4 square miles, was withdrawn at \$1,000.

Rainy River district, berth No. 1, north of Turtle and Burnt Lakes, and south of White Pine Lake, area 15 square miles, C. Cameron, price \$720 square mile, total \$10,800. Berth No. 27, on the east side Manitou River, running into Rainy River, area 7 square miles, G. J. Grant, price \$550, total \$3,850. Berth 36, on Nameukon River, area 24 square miles, W. Ross, price \$400 square mile, total \$9,600. Berth No. 37, area 15 square miles, was withdrawn at \$350 square mile. Berth No. 64, situated on Turtle Lake, area 13 square miles, S. F. McKinnon, price \$775 square mile, total \$10,075. Berth 65, on Turtle Lake, area 7 square miles, G. J. Grant, price \$475, total \$3,325. Berth No. 66, on east side of Clearwater Lake, 8 square miles, J. Drynan, price \$775, total \$6,200. Berth No. 67, north side of Clear Lake, area 1 1/2 square miles, G. J. Grant, price \$975, total \$1,462.50. Berth No. 68, on Mink and Pigeon Lakes, area 4 square miles, G. J. Grant, price \$475, total \$2,900. Berth 69, on Martin Lake, area 16 square miles, C. Cameron, price \$950, total \$15,200.

THE PURCHASES SUMMARIZED.

Following is a summarized list of the purchasers and the amounts paid:—

Gilmour & Co., Trenton.....	\$ 703,875
G. W. Pack, Alpena, Mich.....	392,100
J. Waldie, Toronto.....	118,000
J. Baird.....	98,537
A. McArthur.....	63,000
Beck Manufacturing Co., Penetang.....	57,650
Thomas Murray, Pontiac.....	51,512
J. McCoy.....	53,000
Hall & Booth.....	16,000
W. Stewart.....	29,600
N. Dymont.....	18,900
C. A. Millman.....	15,950
C. Cameron.....	61,200
Hill & Wells, Michigan.....	59,700
John Drynan.....	38,662
James D. Shier, Bracebridge.....	6,000
W. Milne, Ethel.....	10,750
John Gray.....	294,550
Holland & Emery, East Tawas, Mich.....	57,200
C. Campbell.....	96,875
G. F. Coleman.....	33,600
G. J. Grant.....	11,537
S. F. McKinnon, Toronto.....	10,074
W. Ross, Rat Portage.....	9,600
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	\$2,308,475

SALE CHIPS.

Six hundred and thirty-seven square miles of limits were sold.

The largest aggregate price paid for any one berth was \$373,650. G. W. Pack, of Alpena, Mich., got it.

"I will just try and see how far I can make you go with drops of sweetness," was one of the many witticisms of the rollicking Peter Ryan.

No conditions were stipulated by the Government making it compulsory that the logs be sawed into lumber in the province. Despite this fact Canadians were the heaviest purchasers.

At the timber sale of 1887, the last held, the highest price paid per square mile was \$6,350; the tidy sum of \$17,500 was reached in one case at the present sale, Gilmour & Co., of Trenton, being the purchaser.

"Why did the limits fetch such high figures?" said John Charlton, M.P.P., repeating a question put to him. "That is what a good many of us have been trying to find out. A would-be buyer went all over one limit and figured its top value at \$3,000 per square mile. But that same berth brought \$17,500 per mile. It was a great sale.