

this in the light of the fire ravages spoken of in our last section. Remember that these timber reserves are in a dry and rocky country, partly prairie, and exposed to winds. The fires will certainly get in, and will as certainly run badly. Before Ontario's claim is acknowledged by the Privy Council, what is left standing will not be worth having.

In the meantime, this disputed territory is in a wretched state for want of proper jurisdiction. The Ottawa Government has magistrates there, Ontario has magistrates there, but no one knows in any civil proceeding which of them constitutes the proper tribunal, or which law governs the case. In surveys, in mining licenses, in a hundred other matters, there is no undisputed authority. There is no knowing who has power to settle such matters; representations have been made that bloodshed and murder are not unlikely to occur, and if some steps be not taken to settle the question of jurisdiction very serious results are sure to follow.

Let me here say a word about this land which is in dispute: Ontario has spent on it in surveys, administration, buildings and roads, about a quarter of a million. Colonel Dennis tells us that on the shores of Rainy River and Rainy Lake, in the territory which the Award gives us, there are 26,000,000,000 feet of timber—an enormous quantity. At this moment the Canadian Pacific Railway are advertising that their line thereabouts runs through valuable timber lands. Mr. Miller, a prominent lumberman, tells us that the mere stumpage value of this is close on \$130,000,000. Now, we know that the railway between Thunder Bay and Winnipeg is nearly finished; there will at once be an immense demand for lumber in these two places. And now, just at this moment, when we ought to be able to go in and take possession of the country, and get some return for our outlay, we are in effect told to wait a few years. It is monstrous!

If Mr. Mowat's Government be sustained it will be equivalent to a declaration by the Province that she values and means to defend her rights, and further proceedings may obtain them. If it be not, the whole amount of timber will be lost, and the development of the rest of the resources, said to be very valuable, prevented for a lengthened time. I consider Mr. Mowat should be strongly supported on this ground by all Ontario citizens.

THE LICENSE LAW.

It appears to me that if there be one thing more than another which proves the incompetence of the Opposition to Mr. Mowat, it is that they have committed the folly of attacking the License Law of the Mowat