

upon by hon. members from British Columbia; but what I refer to in the motion is a letter addressed to the Government on the subject of immigration into that Province, and an Order in Council which has recently been passed in relation thereto.

Motion agreed to.

PHYSICIANS CERTIFICATES GRANTED UNDER CANADA TEMPERANCE ACT.

Mr. McCRAANEY moved for a return of all certificates granted for liquor under section ninety-nine, clause four, second part of the Canada Temperance Act of 1873 by the physicians of the county of Halton, giving the name of each physician, and specifying the number of certificates granted by each, from the 1st of May to the 31st of December, 1882.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. I beg leave to call the hon. gentleman's attention to the fact that we have no control in this matter whatever. The licenses are granted by the Local Government, and as we cannot insist upon these returns being made, I think it would be unwise in the House to ask for them.

Mr. McCRAANEY. I find that the Act provides that such a return shall be made, and I took it for granted that it is to be made to this Government.

Sir HECTOR LANGÉVIN. If under the Act these returns can be made to this House, or to the Government, of course they will be brought down.

Motion agreed to.

IMPORTATION OF CHILDREN'S CARRIAGES.

Mr. McCRAANEY moved for a return of the number of children's carriages imported into Canada each and every year, from the 1st of July, 1878, to the 1st of July, 1882, with the amount of duty collected in each year.

Mr. BOWELL. There is no objection to bringing down these returns provided we have them in the Department. I am under the impression, however, that they are not kept separately, but are classed with other carriages. I will make enquiry, however, and if there is any such return we will bring it down.

Mr. McCRAANEY. In the Trade and Navigation Returns the aggregates are given. I supposed, however, that there was a detailed statement from which the returns were made, and that the hon. gentleman would bring it down.

Mr. BOWELL. The only way in which it could be obtained, unless it is kept separately in the Department, would be to send to each port in the Dominion for a special return. I scarcely think the hon. gentleman would require that.

Mr. McCRAANEY. My reason for making this motion is that some persons engaged in the business have been writing to me, asking for this return.

Motion agreed to.

TIMBER PERMITS.

Mr. McCRAANEY moved for a return showing the names of all persons to whom permits have been granted to make timber, ties, telegraph poles and saw-logs within the district of Rainy Lake and River and Lake of the Woods and tributary streams, said return to show the quantities removed and dues collected on the same, from the 1st day of July, 1880, to the 1st day of July, 1882, and the area of territory granted to each person, and by whom surveyed, with all correspondence in connection therewith. He said: I consider this a very important question—perhaps no more important question can come before this House. It is a well-known fact that the timber of our country is going

away very fast. Largo tracts of country in the North-West are entirely destitute of timber; and the probability is, from the way in which our timber is being cut off, that in a very few years, perhaps not more than twenty, the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec will have no more lumber than they will require for their own use. At the present time lumber in the North West is very high, averaging from \$20 to \$40 per thousand, and at the present rate at which timber is being cut off, it is fair to say, at any rate, that the price of lumber will not decrease. Consequently, it becomes an absolute necessity that the timber resources of our country should be husbanded. While in the North-West last summer I made enquiries as to the practice of persons cutting timber in the Rainy Lake and Lake of the Woods district, and I found that a considerable quantity of timber had been destroyed by fire, and that large quantities were being removed by various parties. I was informed also that permits had been given by the Government. You will observe that I only ask for the number of permits; I do not ask for the number of licenses, as that return, I believe, has been asked for already this Session. Since that time, I have received several letters from parties in that section of country, and I will take the liberty of reading a short extract from one I received a short time ago, from a man who can be relied upon, and I have no doubt he states what is true. He says:

"During the summer of 1879 and the following winter but little timber belonging to Ontario was taken, further than what was required for the Pacific Railway, and until the road was in operation there was no means of removing timber and lumber, but in 1881 the timber cutters of the Dominion came in and went for the timber with a will. One man got a permit to make ties, take out telegraph poles, timber and piles. He made no survey of his limits; he selected the best place he could find, and the most convenient, and marked it on the map, and made a tracing which he sent to the land office at Winnipeg, and on this slender title but by no means a precarious one, so long as the Dominion claim the power, and have the will to take the timber from the estate of Ontario, he went to work. Report says an honorable Senator is the godfather of this man in timber iniquity. Another pet of the Dominion Government got a permit as vague and comprehensive as the other—marked it out the same way, and for the last two seasons has been cutting and removing timber on an extensive scale. His godfather is said to be another honorable at Ottawa. There are many minor villains who follow in the wake of these privileged plunderers, and have made a big stake; ties have been removed by the million, and telegraph poles by the hundreds of thousands, as well as square timber, piles and saw-logs. The vultures of the Dominion have a beautiful harvest in the dishonestly acquired property of old Ontario."

Now, Sir, I do not pretend to say that these statements are absolutely correct; all I have to say is this: if these things be so, it is time that the people of this country should know whether proper value has been received for this timber. During the past few months statements have appeared in the newspapers to the effect that the timber of that district is being sold at private sale, and at a very low price, to certain individuals who are favorites of the Government, and that the Dominion is not receiving full value for that timber. In one of our newspapers appeared, not long ago, the following:—

"Sir John Macdonald's Government gave to political friends certain valuable timber limits at the ridiculous price of \$5 per square mile. The friends promptly sold these limits for \$2,000 per square mile! Of such is the Ottawa system; and if our Provincial finances had been administered for ten years by the party that perpetrates such jobs, where, in the name of common sense, would Ontario have stood to-day?"

I find, on calculation, that if it be true that timber limits have been purchased at \$5 per square mile, and resold at \$2,000 per square mile, the profits resulting from this transaction would be 39,900 per cent., which is a pretty good rate of interest. There is no doubt but that the system of selling timber limits by private sale is a great mistake, whatever Government adopts it, and I think it is high time the Government put those limits up to the highest bidder and let every one who has the means and wishes to buy have an opportunity of purchasing. This, besides, will relieve the Government of a certain responsibility and prevent