

Miscampbell was this: We proposed to have the condition put in right at once; the proposition of the Government as passed into law was that the condition should be imposed in all new timber limits sales that occurred afterwards, and in all the old ones at the expiration of the then current license year. That gave the American lumbermen all that winter to go on and to clean up all the logs they could and take them away, because at the end of the year when the license was renewed this new provision was to be put in. Now, you can understand why they made preparations to take away an unheard of quantity of logs, and, as I say, it was practically adopting our policy in that respect.

Mr. Gibson, with that frankness which sometimes is characteristic of him, actually declared in his speech that the Government had decided on that policy weeks before the House met. (Laughter.) After I had declared myself publicly they declared themselves to each other secretly, so he said, and when Mr. Miscampbell, my colleague, attempted to put the policy in force they voted it down, and said to adopt it would be unjust, unfair, and illegal, and two weeks afterwards they adopted what was practically the policy itself! (Applause.)

SOMETHING YET TO COME.

There is something else I might tell you but I won't to-night; I have not time to do it, and, beside, I want to let it hang fire a little; I shall be prepared before long, in fact I am prepared now, but I propose before long to tell you what return the American lumbermen made for this conduct on the part of the Government. (Hear, hear.)

Now, then, at the risk of tiring you, I am going to read this article taken from the Saginaw Courier-Herald. Saginaw is in Michigan, and is one of the headquarters of the American lumber industry. This is an organ well acquainted with all interests of the sawlog men, and this is the conclusion of the American men as to this great question. This is a paper well acquainted with all the interests of the sawmill men. I was going to say their "organ," but that would probably not be true.

The Saginaw Courier-Herald remarks:—"As far back as the early eighties William Ralph Meredith, leader of the Opposition in the Ontario Legislature, and now Chief Justice of the province, laid down as a matter of public policy that all logs cut in Canada should also be manufactured there. Meredith led the Conservatives in Ontario, and in assuming this policy he was but following in the lead of Sir John A. Macdonald, chief of the party in the country, who established the National Policy of Protection in Canada. Mr. Meredith's idea grew in popularity, and was taken up by the people and press irrespective of party. In the meantime, he continued to press the policy upon the attention of the Ontario Government, a course in which he was followed by those who succeeded him in the leadership, after he took office as Chief Justice."

"The Ontario Government at first opposed, then opposition grew silent and finally, seeing the bent of public opinion and fearing defeat on the issue, the policy was stolen bodily from the Opposition. It was made part of the Government programme as though it had originally belonged there, and it was embodied in an Act passed by the Ontario Legislature, in which it is made compulsory that all logs cut in that province must be manufactured there also. The policy grew as a direct result of the pressure of public opinion in Ontario, and quite irrespective of any legislation passed across the border. It would have become the law of Ontario just the same, no matter what was done here, for the people forced it upon the Government."

That is what a dispassionate observer, who has the interests of the saw-millers of the United States at heart contributes, as a matter of history, to this question. That has been our policy in the past with regard to this great question, this valuable asset of ours, an asset which has been frittered away during the past years to a greater extent than the people of Ontario dreamed