

these wealthy corporations their fair share of taxation, who, I ask, sir, were the friends of these wealthy corporations. (Cheers). Let the journals of this House answer. Three times, sir, during the progress of this bill through the House did honorable gentlemen now occupying the treasury benches move to defeat the bill. Three times was the House divided and three times did the Liberals solidly vote for this increased taxation, and as often did our Conservative friends raise their voices and solidly their votes against this highly justifiable and just measure. Who then, sir, I repeat, were the friends of the wealthy and powerful corporations. (Cheers). Under this act the actual receipts last year from these wealthy corporations amounted to the handsome sum of \$672,241.76. (Cheers).

Then again, sir, let us consider for a moment that act having for its object the taxation of the brewers and distillers. At every stage of the passing of that measure through the House was it bitterly opposed by honorable gentlemen to your right. Time and again, as the journals of the House show, did they move the six months hoist. And now under this act does the treasury annually receive somewhat in the neighborhood of \$75,000.00. (Cheers).

Under and by virtue of these three measures, passed by the Liberals, despite the opposition as stated, the Provincial Treasury has received the respective sums, all told, of \$5,213,27.00, \$3,268,700 and \$580,877.00, or a grand total of \$9,163,304.00. (Cheers).

Then again, Mr. Speaker, as to another source of revenue. The construction of the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway—the first Government owned and operated Provincial railway in the Dominion—led accidentally to the mineral discoveries at Cobalt, followed as this discovery was by mineral development and the consequent large increase in revenue from mining. The receipts from mining in 1904 were but some \$27,000. Last year these receipts had run up to \$1,686,624.35. Again, sir, under the rearrangement of Provincial subsidies paid by the Dominion, this Province last year received a half yearly payment, in increase of the amounts receivable under the old act, the sum of \$394,742.40. So that from these two sources alone there flowed into the treasury upwards of \$2,000,000 more than in 1904. The present

Government received this from sources that were not available to the old Government. (Cheers). Viewing all these facts, this House and the people of this Province will have no difficulty in drawing a fair and accurate conclusion as to which of the two great parties has the better record in their dealing with the important questions of finances and financial legislation. (Cheers).

These Pulpwood Concessions.

Now, sir, there is one question which has occupied a good deal of time during this debate and which has done duty for supporters of the Government not only from the floor of this House, but also in one or two bye-elections that in the main did not result favorably to the Government. In dealing with the question of the Montreal river pulp concession I note the fact that in attacking the old Government this is a particular one of five concessions which supporters of the Government select as apparently the one from which they think they can deduce the more favorable conclusions. Now, sir, let me say that I hold no particular brief for former Governments. I was a member of the Liberal Government for but a few short weeks. The bargain that has been so severely criticized was made away back in 1902. I do not pretend to say that Liberal Governments made no mistakes. That set of men, be they Liberal or be they Conservative, are yet unborn that always did the wisest and best thing. But this I do say whatever adverse criticisms may have been deserved and may have been or may yet be launched against the several Liberal Governments who for 32 or 33 years ruled this Province, that when the proper perspective is given by lapse of time, it will be generally admitted that so far as financial administration is concerned, so far as the general administration of the business affairs of the Province is concerned, so far as the legislative record is concerned, the successive Liberal Governments will have been adjudged to be well up to the mark, and their record in these respects will be cheerfully admitted to have been decidedly creditable to this fair Province. (Cheers). While stating this I am well convinced that the duty of a public man at any particular moment of time is not in the slavish following or the defending of any past record, but rather the doing that which will be best for