

OLIVER ON TIMBER LIMITS.

Policy of Old Conservative Government Continued.

Highest Bidder Got the Berths in Every Instance.

Clifford Sifton Moves Adjournment.

Ottawa, Feb. 4.—To the misrepresentation, insinuations and veiled charges which have made up the Opposition's attack on the Government's timber land administration Mr. Oliver made a complete answer to-day. He showed that the policy challenged had until December last, when the new regulations were introduced, been followed for a period of 25 years, by the last Conservative Government as well as by the present Administration, and that it was based, not on the principle of securing the highest prices for the standing timber, but on the desirability of developing the lumber industry throughout the country. The difference between the two Administrations was that while the principle followed was right in both cases, the methods adopted by the Conservative Government were wrong. After proving that during the past eleven years the policy of the Government had been an unqualified success in the direction of developing the lumber industry and meeting the demands of the settlers, Mr. Oliver dealt with the suggestion that the Interior Department had shown favoritism. He pointed out that the Government had been actually challenged by the Opposition the successful tenderer was a prominent Conservative of Prince Albert, and quoted from the list of tenders since 1906 to show that the tenders had ranged in some cases from \$400 to \$8,500 and \$207 to \$8,100, thus proving that the competition had been ample and adequate. Finally he took up the insinuations of Mr. Ames with regard to the Cedar Lake limit, and gave to the House Mr. Fraser's explanation of the circumstances connected with that transaction. It was an explanation which entirely disposed of the suspicions sought to be created by the member for St. Antoine. Mr. Oliver closed with a challenge to the Opposition to make definite charges instead of taking refuge in insinuations. The debate was adjourned on motion of Mr. Sifton.

Sale of Mileage Tickets.

The bill to amend the passenger ticket act, introduced by Mr. Reid (Greenville), was read a first time. It provides that railway companies must sell mileage tickets, good for 500 or 1,000 miles, at the rate of two cents a mile; that where the holder of such a ticket, gets on the wrong train, his ticket must be accepted, and the company must collect from the company issuing the ticket the amount due for distance travelled by the holder.

Mr. Boyce on Timber Leases.

Mr. Boyce resumed the debate on Mr. Lake's amendment calling to an investigation of timber leases, his remarks being in the nature of a general criticism of the Government's policy dealing with timber limits. He cited some specific instances in support of his view, and commenting on the fact that the Minister of the Interior so far had not offered any explanations, said perhaps the ex-Minister (Hon. Mr. Sifton) who had displayed active interest in the debate, would not doubt have something to say, as it was during his term of office that some of the methods which the Opposition now attacked had been followed. Turning to Mr. Turfitt, he declared that the former Land Commissioner must have known that there were spurious tenders in the case of Mr. Turfitt. The hon. gentleman is again indulging in insinuations. I ask him to make charges. I say again that was not my business to act as a detective. I opened the tenders as they came to me, and had nothing to do with questioning whether one or half a dozen tenders were written in the same handwriting. To say that I knew there were spurious tenders is false, absolutely false.

Mr. Boyce maintained that as Dominion Lands Commissioner Mr. Turfitt's first duty was to be a detective. It was high time there was an investigation into the doings of the gang of political things and thieves who were plundering the country.

Mr. Oliver's Reply.

Mr. Oliver agreed with Mr. Boyce in the expression that the discussion had been a mere waste of time. He did not think there had been anything in Parliament to compare with it, and there was probably nothing on record to compare with it, except the celebrated case of Bardell vs. Pickwick. The Government had been attacked and the country informed that its treasury was being squandered. He said that the limit was not assumed a policy to exist that had not existed for 25 years. For a period of 25 years the policy of the late Government and of the present Administration had been to secure the development of the lumbering industry, and not to secure a price for the standing timber. In 1879 the Government of that day embodied in the lands act a provision for dealing with the timber resources of the country on the principle of revenue from sale, but that policy was abandoned in 1881, and the Conservative Government adopted the principle of handing over as a free gift valuable areas of timber then existing to anybody who would operate them. That policy of administering the timber areas, with a view of securing the development of the timber area rather than of deriving a revenue from the sale of standing timber, had continued until the present time. Proceeding to refer to some of the cases in which the Conservative Government gave timber berths to their friends, he pointed out that, though in many instances licenses did not follow the order-in-Council, the rights of ownership were exercised. The Opposition had blazoned the Galway Horse & Cattle Company transaction abroad as a corrupt deal, but the circumstances of that transaction were exactly the same as in many of the transactions of the Conservative Government. If it was wrong in that instance it was wrong in 345 cases under the late Government.

First Come, First Served.

Proceeding, he said there could be no gainsaying the fact that the larger the capital invested the cheaper the lumber produced. From 1881 to December, 1897, the principle of administration in respect to a timber limit was first come, first served. The man who would take it got it, unless there was more than one applicant, in which case the man who bid most was successful. As illustrating the success of the policy under both Administrations, he stated that in 1881 the total timber cut was 13,000,000 feet, of which 12,000,000 was sold; in 1898 the figures were 34,000,000 and 32,000,000, respectively, and for the nine months ending March 31, 1907, the cut was 141,000,000 feet and the sales 128,000,000, while the number of mills increased from 55 in 1886 to 89 in 1907. This enormous advance was proof of the success of the present Government's method of getting lumber cut so as to meet the demand of the people in the west. It had been secured, too, by the alienation of something less than 8,000 square miles, against the alienation of 30,000 square miles by their predecessors, and to-day lumber was stocked in every lumber yard in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and on the railway belt of British Columbia, beyond the present requirements of the west.

Much Timber Left.

"Standing timber," he emphasized later, in alluding to the fallacious reasoning of the Opposition members, was not worth anything as a working proposition unless it could be turned into lumber, or there was an assurance that it soon would be. The owners could not get money out of it unless they manufactured it into lumber and sold at the market prices. If there was any ground for speculative values placed on the limits by the Opposition members, why had they not tendered for them? They had perfect liberty to do so, and it could not be alleged, nor, if alleged, could it be proven, that since 1896 any hon. gentleman on the opposite side of the House had not had every chance to put his money into these limits. Dealing with the present resources of the timber lands held by the Crown, Mr. Oliver said an attempt was being made to make the public believe it was all alienated. There was no basis for that. It was now two years since the Government policy of setting aside timber reserves in the west was adopted, and they already aggregated 5,391 square miles. This was exclusive of 10,000 square miles of park reserves, over which they had special control in respect to safeguarding the timber. The gentleman who up to last year was in charge of the forestry branch of the department had, in fact, estimated that there were in the western Provinces and railway belt of British Columbia 150,000 square miles of merchantable timber. Fabulous estimates had been placed by hon. gentlemen on some timber berths in the vicinity of Inver Creek. Mr. Oliver said, but Mr. McGuire, a shrewd lumber operator, living near them, knowing all about them, and having every opportunity to judge, had only bid \$275 for one and \$255 for another.

Highest Bidder Gets Limit.
Dealing with the allegations that the Government's methods of timber administration had been corrupt and marked by partiality and favoritism, he quoted from the list of tenders since 1896 to show that there had been adequate competition. For one timber berth there had been seven tenders, and the prices offered ranged from \$400 to \$8,500; for another the tenders had numbered five, and ranged from \$307 to \$8,100. For a third there had been four tenders, varying from \$400 to \$2,100. Not only had there been adequate competition, but in every case since 1896 the best bidder had been awarded to the highest bidder. One of the cases cited by the Opposition as corrupt had been that of a timber berth near Prince Albert. As a matter of fact, it was one of the own friends who had put that berth, Mr. Nolan, who was formerly Mayor of Prince Albert, and a Conservative candidate in the Provincial election. He was the highest bidder and he got it. Reverting to the question of access to the land, he said that the Opposition should not be concerned with the production of original documents, Mr. Oliver repeated the arguments he used in the recent debate.

Teh Cedar Lake Transaction.
With regard to the Cedar Lake transaction, he pointed out that an advertisement was issued, three tenders were received, and the highest tender got the limit. Mr. A. H. Fraser had asked him to explain to the House the circumstances connected with the tenders for the Cedar Lake property. Mr. Fraser was associated with relatives and friends in a desire to acquire a timber limit, and on behalf of his associates, he applied to have the Cedar Lake limit put up to competition. It was put up to competition, and, on the understanding he had with his associates, he put in a tender of \$1,000. Before the time for the closing of tenders had arrived he received a letter, or a telegram from a client in Winnipeg, authorizing him to put in a tender for \$7,000. Mr. Fraser made out the client's tender, as he had his own, and, having the authority of Mr. Nolan to use his name, and not being able to use his own name, a second time, he used Mr. Nolan's name in the tender for his client. He filled out the tender and at the last moment put in the figures. Tenders were put in and the limit was awarded to Mr. Fraser's client. Mr. Oliver pointed out that if Mr. Fraser had, as was alleged, any influence in the department, he had wanted that timber limit, and if it had been of any value like the value Mr. Ames set upon it, there was nothing in the world to hinder Mr. Fraser from putting in another tender, higher than \$7,000, and getting the limit for himself. The limit was afterwards assigned to the Imperial Pulp Company, but there was no evidence, so far as Mr. Oliver knew, that Mr. Fraser had any interest in that company.

The New Regulations.

Mr. Oliver then explained the reasons for the new regulations, stating that, having regard to the great development of the lumber industry and to conditions such as had been disclosed in the lumber combine inquiry, the Government considered the time had come when a more conservative system should be followed. It had been sought to create the impression that limits had been forced on concessionaires by the Conservative Administration and that they had been refused, whereas many concessionaires had held them for years, losing them finally when they did not pay the ground rent. In this connection he alluded directly to Mr. Ward, M. P., who he said, had held a limit for eight years before it was cancelled for the cause mentioned. He was not finding fault with the individual cases, but when, as in 1882, it was found that the Conservative Government had granted 450 areas of fifty square miles each, mostly to political supporters and friends.

Conservative Members' Offer.

In reference to the limit of 200 square miles mentioned by the Opposition speakers as having been granted to Messrs. Sutherland and Cook by the Mackenzie Government, he said the license had been cancelled shortly after the Tory Government came into power. In May, 1881, a letter was written to Mr. Cook, then at Toronto, and signed among others by Mr. Daly, afterwards Minister of the Interior, in which an offer was made to use influence with the Government at Ot-

The Daily Fashion Hint.



Good model for a gown of heavy dark blue linen. The embroidery on the blouse is in heavy linen floss, same shade as the material. Under the blouse is all-over embroidery.

BRAVE SEAMEN

Rescued Ship's Crew—Gallant Nova Scotian.

Hamilton, Bermuda, Feb. 4.—The steamship Bermudian arrived here from New York this morning with details of the abandonment at sea of the 4-masted schooner Mary L. Newhall, of Bath, Me. The schooner left Tampa for Norfolk on January 24 and met with a succession of gales. When 240 miles north-west of Bermuda on Sunday afternoon she sighted the Bermudian. At daylight of Monday a gallant effort was made to take off the schooner's crew, but the seas were still too high to allow of a close approach. The men on the schooner testified their appreciation of the gallantry of the men by subscribing \$650 for them. Of this amount \$250 goes to J. F. Welch, second mate, a young Nova Scotian.

Mr. Borden declared he had never heard a member of the House who had been guilty of insinuations to the extent that the hon. gentleman had. The statement of the Minister of the Interior, he declared, was illogical and absurd, and he spent some time in criticism of it. Proceeding, he asked why the Minister was not advertising the timber limits to encourage a long list of persons who during the Conservative regime 25 years ago obtained grants of timber limits to the extent of 50 square miles each. The Opposition leader spent some time criticizing the Department of the Interior for not advertising the timber limits a longer time, quoting the practice of the Ontario Government in this regard as worth following. It was an act of madness to alienate the great timber areas, which could not be required for the purposes of development. He also condemned what he called the vicious practice of the Land Commissioner opening tenders alone, and suggested that Mr. Oliver must have misunderstood Mr. Fraser's explanation with reference to Cedar Lake tenders. He did not think it was an explanation that would commend itself to the people of the country.

Mr. Sifton moved the adjournment of the debate.

The House adjourned at 10.45.

WARRANT FOR ENGINEER.

Responsibility for the Accident at St. Martine Junction.

Montreal, Feb. 4.—An inquest was held this morning into the death by which Fireman H. Symonds was killed at St. Martine Junction on January 29. Foster Bottomley, engineer of the train that was blocking the main line, admitted that he had not taken any precautions when he stopped at St. Martine Junction, and gave as an excuse that he thought he had plenty of time to get his orders from the operator and go on again. He also admitted that he knew there was a train following his very closely.

Under the circumstances Coroner McMahon will issue a warrant for the arrest of Foster Bottomley on a charge of criminal negligence.

Money Package Stolen.

Winnipeg, Feb. 4.—There is a rumor in circulation that a registered package containing \$11,000 has disappeared in the mails west of here. No official confirmation can be obtained.

Is Your Skin Sallow?

Authorities like Dr. Hamilton who have made a study of skin diseases say that the trouble always originates in a torpid liver. You are apt to be dizzy, have bad taste and poor appetite. It isn't necessary to use a harsh medicine—get close to nature and try Dr. Hamilton's Pills which are composed of the juices and extracts of such herbs as Mandrake and Butternut. They are an ideal laxative for the liver, tone up this organ, make it work properly, which purifies the blood, clears the complexion, and removes all poisons from the system. Never known to fail.

No one ever used Dr. Hamilton's Pills without instant relief. A more perfect remedy can't be found. They restore the sickly to health and keep the well from becoming ill. Try them for your beauty, your vigor. 25c per box, or five for \$1.00, at all dealers.

POWDER MILL BLOWN UP.

EXPLOSION NEAR TWEED SHATTERED WINDOWS IN TOWN.

Workmen Made Escape—Saw Nitric Acid Vat Boil Over and Fleed—Buildings Blown to Atoms—Loss is Heavy.

Tweed, Feb. 4.—A terrific explosion, which broke well nigh every window in town, and caused scenes of excitement, occurred a mile east from here shortly after seven this morning when the powder mills of the Ontario Powder Company, comprising from twelve to fifteen buildings, were utterly destroyed.

It is fortunate there was no loss of life. The men in the works had only been at their occupation a few minutes when one of the big vats of nitric acid was observed to boil over, owing to the fact that the extreme cold weather had caused the nitro-glycerine, and it entered the mixer and caused the nitric acid to boil and pour over the floor, thus setting the building on fire.

The mixers, seeing the danger, ran through the works calling to the men to run for their lives. The men, not suffering, as with the glass broken, and the thermometer below zero, it is impossible to keep the houses warm.

Much perishable foodstuff has been frozen in the stores, and rendered absolutely useless, the plate glass fronts having been smashed. Business is practically suspended, and will be for some days. The churches of the town are also without windows, and as the glass is somewhat hard to replace, there will not likely be services next Sunday.

The factory of the Steel Trough and Machine Co., which is situated a short distance away from the powder mills, had its big chimney blown down, as well as the glass broken.

Across Stoco Lake, a distance of six or seven miles, is the little village of Stoco. There was much damage done to windows there, and at Madoc, 19 miles away, there are some plate glass fronts reported broken.

The buildings of the Powder Company were most of them completely blown to atoms. The worst explosion took place in the building where the blasting gelignite cartridges are made. The company had just started the manufacture of this powerful explosive, having installed a lot of expensive machinery in December last. This explosive is 50 per cent more powerful than ordinary dynamite.

The loss on plate glass and other glass in the town is estimated at over \$10,000. The company's loss will be \$25,000 at the lowest estimate.

NINE STOWAWAYS

Meet Fearful Fate on Board Burning Steamer.

New York, Feb. 4.—A wireless despatch to the Times from the steamer Cymric gives details of the burning of the steamer St. Catharine. The officers and the crew of the St. Catharine had a terrible story to tell. At midday Saturday the fire was first discovered, smoke being seen emerging from a ventilator. The first officer rushed to the bridge where the captain was to tell him of the fire, when almost immediately a terrific explosion occurred, blowing off all the hatches in the forward part of the ship, and destroying half the bridge. The captain was thrown to the deck, badly injured and blinded by the flames. The wheelman was driven away from his post. The foremost mast fell, throwing a stowaway who was hidden in the mast into the flames, which had by this time burned through the forward deck. There were nine stowaways on the ship, and all were caught in the forward holds and burned to death without a chance of rescue. After the fall of the mast the fire was partially checked, but the poisonous fumes of the fuel oil made fighting the fire almost impossible.

The ship was loaded with fusel oil, matches, rags, wool and other inflammable material.

CASTORIA

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BETTER AT HOME.

Bulgarians Have Not Bettered Themselves Here.

Chicago, Feb. 4.—Bulgarian immigration to the United States is a failure. Bulgarians had better stay in Bulgaria. They are better off there than in America.

That will be the substance of a semi-official report to the made to the Bulgarian Government by P. N. Daskaloff, editor of the Vecherna Post, a leading newspaper of Sofia. "I have investigated the conditions of my countrymen in this country, and I find that Bulgarians have not bettered themselves by coming to America," said Mr. Daskaloff yesterday.

"In the last four years about 90,000 Bulgarians have come to this country, and this large loss has become a matter of concern to the Government, the total population of Bulgaria being only 4,000,000."

A NEW ROAD.

Constantinople, Feb. 4.—An imperial decree issued yesterday authorizes the survey of Mitrovitz-Novibazar railway. The building of this line has long been a cherished project to Austria-Hungary, but Russia's attitude of steady opposition has prevented the execution of the plan.

CRITICISM FOR CANADA.

Should Have Conformed to Policy of 1897 Conference, Says the Post.

London, Feb. 4.—The Morning Post, dealing with the Asiatic immigration question, criticizes the Dominion Government, and says that had Canada conformed to the policy adopted at the conference in 1897 her national dependence would be larger than it is today. Her immigration laws would not be characterized by racial discrimination, and the recent troubles in British Columbia need never have arisen.

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SYNOPSIS OF CANADIAN

NORTH-WEST

Homestead Regulations

ANY even numbered section of Dominion Lands in Manitoba or the Northwest Provinces, excepting 36 and 38, not reserved, may be homesteaded by any person of legal age, male or female, over 18 years of age, to the extent of one-quarter section of 160 acres, more or less.

Application for homestead entry must be made in person by the applicant at a Dominion Lands Agency or Sub-agency. Entry by proxy may, however, be made at an Agency on certain conditions by the father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister of an intending homesteader.

An application for entry or cancellation made personally at any Sub-agency's office may be signed by the Agent by the Sub-agent, at the expense of the applicant, and if the land applied for is vacant on receipt of the telegram such application is to have priority and the land will be held until the necessary papers to complete the transaction are received by mail.

In case of "persecution" or fraud the applicant will forfeit all priority of claim and if entry has been granted it will be summarily cancelled.

An application for cancellation must be made in person. The applicant must be eligible for homestead entry, and only one application for cancellation may be received from an individual until that application has been disposed of.

Where an entry is cancelled subsequent to institution of cancellation proceedings, the applicant for cancellation will be entitled to prior right of entry.

Applicant for cancellation must state in what particular the homesteader is in default.

A homesteader whose entry is not the subject of cancellation proceedings, may, subject to the approval of Department, relinquish it in favour of father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister, if eligible, but to no one else, on filing declaration of abandonment.

DUTIES.—A settler is required to perform the duties under one of the following plans: (1) At least six months' residence upon and cultivation of the land in each year during the term of three years.

(2) A homesteader may, if he so desires, perform the required residence duties by living on farming land owned solely by him, or less than eighty (80) acres in extent, in the vicinity of his homestead. Joint ownership in land will not meet this requirement.

(3) If the father (or mother, if the father is deceased) of a homesteader has permanent residence on farming land owned solely by him, not less than eighty (80) acres in extent, in the vicinity of the homestead, or upon a homestead entered for by him in the vicinity, such homesteader may perform his residence duties by living with the father (or mother).

The term "vicinity" in the two preceding paragraphs is defined as meaning not more than nine miles in a direct line, exclusive of road allowances crossed in the measurement.

(4) A homesteader intending to perform his residence duties in the manner above while living with parents or on farming land owned by himself must notify the Agent for the district of such intention.

Before making application for patent the settler must give six months' notice in writing to the Commissioner of Dominion Lands at Ottawa, of his intention to do so.

SYNOPSIS OF CANADIAN NORTHWEST MINING REGULATIONS.

COAL.—Coal mining rights may be leased for a period of twenty-one years at an annual rental of \$1 per acre. Not more than 2500 acres shall be leased to one individual or company. A royalty at the rate of five cents per ton shall be collected on the merchantable coal mined.

John F. Shea's

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This is the greatest slaughter sale ever offered by us to the public. Prices cut regardless of cost. We can throw a good many thousand dollars and still have a generous assortment, and we are going to do it.

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