

place, and the Company cannot afford to pay a station agent". They undertook this and spent large amounts of money in showing incoming settlers what the land was. They started farms and grew crops, and the result is today that a large and prosperous settlement exists on this land which before was looked upon as a hopeless desert. The flourishing town of Saskatoon is largely built on the business of these settlers. Splendid crops have been grown and the Government homestead land has been largely taken up, in consequence of the results shown by this enterprising American Company. The railroad land in the neighborhood has been enormously increased in value and the whole country, besides the \$250,000 in the Treasury, has reaped a splendid return for a wise and farsighted business operation, through the great expansion of trade and the increase in settlement and production resulting directly from this transaction.

SALE OF TIMBER LIMITS TO MR. BURROWS.

The timber limits sales to Mr. Burrows and others show the following facts:

Years before the Liberal Government came into power timber limits had been disposed of, both under the old Mackenzie regime and during the eighteen years of intervening Conservative rule. In the four years of the Mackenzie Government 310 square miles of timber limits were sold for \$7,150 an average of *twenty three* dollars per square mile. From 1879 to 1896 the Conservative Government granted 29,000 square miles for which they received \$121,000—an average of *Four* dollars per square mile, but of this 29,000 square miles 23,000 were given away to various people for nothing.

In 1896 Mr. Sifton took charge of the Department, and during the last eleven years 6,456 square miles of timber limits were granted for which the Government got \$528,000 or *eighty-one* dollars per square mile, as against an average of *Four* dollars under the Conservative administration and *twenty-three* dollars under the old Mackenzie administration.

During this period Mr. Burrows se-

cured 434 square miles out of the whole 6,456 square miles sold. Mr. Burrows paid \$49,795 or an average of eighty-seven dollars per square mile, or six dollars higher than the average price for all land sold under the Liberal regime. The insinuation is that Mr. Burrows, being Mr. Sifton's brother-in-law, got the lands at exceptional prices, and this constituted a scandal. Mr. Burrows had been in the lumber business for twenty-years before the change of Government. He has secured, under the Conservative regime, considerable areas of timber land and for most of these he had paid nothing, they being included in the 23,000 square miles given away by the Tory Government.

After the Liberal came into power and Mr. Sifton took charge of the Department *all the timber lands were sold by public tender*, and no single mile of it has been given free to anybody, least of all to Mr. Burrows, the brother-in-law of the Minister. Mr. Burrows had to compete with everybody else for every square mile of timber he secured, and as a matter of fact he paid six dollars per square mile *higher* than the average price that other people paid. He secured 434 square miles for which he paid \$49,795. On those very berths the next higher bids came to \$11,537 less than the amount Mr. Burrows paid; so that if the brother-in-law of the Minister had not bid on these the Dominion Treasury would have been out \$11,537, which it got from this gentleman.

At that time Mr. Burrows was not a Member of Parliament. He was a candidate in the County of Dauphin in the last General Elections, when these facts were known to the people amongst whom he lived and whose suffrages he was asking for, and he was returned to Parliament by acclamation by the electors who knew the true facts and did not take any stock in the attempt to fasten the scandal upon this candidate.

These are specimens of the campaign of slander and scandal, and the rest of it could be disposed of in the same way as these—as has been done on different occasions when the matters have been brought up in the House of Commons.