

inner Ottawa, the St. Maurice, the Saguenay, where purchases of land would not for a long time, compare with the extent now worked upon. This would have the effect of injuring trade and shipping. I do not know as to the diversion of the Trade to the United States.

6. Have you any idea of the Revenue derived from the Timber resources of the Country, if so state about the amount?—The amounts can be had more correctly from the office. The Revenue has been very large for some years; a decrease has no doubt begun to be felt from the pressure in the Trade generally, the war, and the prices of provisions.

7. Have you any idea of the number of licences issued to different parties throughout the Province, which is supposed to be between six hundred and nine hundred, in the names of different individuals; and the system giving the same advantages to the poor man as well as to the rich, do you consider that it can be looked upon as a monopoly, and if any dissatisfaction is found with the system, is it not from parties who wish to acquire rights that others have obtained from Government?—If precautions are taken in all cases of intended retaining of Berths, without working them, to enforce increased rents, I do not consider the system as a Monopoly. Large holders of licenses have sometimes claimed a right to keep berths in expectation for future years, in consideration of having invested capital in other berths nearer. This I have never admitted as correct. As to the number of licences it is very large; but the same parties have got many.

8. Have you any idea of the extent of improvements made on the Ottawa and its Tributaries by private enterprise, and if it is not to your knowledge that vast sums have been expended throughout the Province, in the construction of Saw Mills?—The Lumbering Establishments of the Ottawa extend to hundreds of miles in the interior. There are there and elsewhere important saw mills.

9. Do you think it would be just on the part of the Government to introduce any system which would be calculated to destroy the investments of such persons, merely for the purpose of satisfying parties to acquire privileges that the Government has previously granted, and on such faith the investments have been made?—Already answered. I would maintain *bona fide* possession, but not reserve from competition, unoccupied and unworked Berths.

10. What is your opinion as to how Government should keep faith with the parties having so invested, or otherwise, and what effect do you consider sudden and constant changes would have on a branch of commerce, now so extended in its ramifications throughout the Colony, and which yields such a large revenue to the Government; and would not the commercial faith of the country be shaken if the Government were on all occasions, to meet popular will, cause any sacrifice of the interest of any individual for the benefit of another?—I would consider Government as bound to do all it can to maintain existing investments, save preventing competition on new or unworked berths.

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