

Government by saying that this Government has been in power for eighteen years, that at the last general election and some previous general elections the assaults that were made upon them by the Opposition were fruitless. Why, Mr. Chairman, if that were a sufficient answer, then none of the great reforms for which the people in the mother country have struggled for year by year would have been accomplished. It is only by constant and persistent pursuit for all that which you believe to be in the interests of the country that ultimately the electorate will displace those who are conducting the affairs of the country in a manner opposed to the interests of the people.

Now, sir, I have to-night to go over a good deal of ground. I have, in the course of the observations which I am to make to you, to trouble you by

Reference to the Public Records

and to read to you extracts from the public documents in support of the position I take. I therefore hope, Mr. Chairman, and ladies and gentlemen, that in view of the great issues upon which the people of this country are about to pronounce that you will bear with me patiently during the course of the observations which I shall feel it my duty to address to you. Now, I am not going to enter into a discussion of the financial record of the Ontario Government, and if I do not take up their record in that respect and pass observations upon it you are not to assume that it is not because I do not think that with regard to their financial administration of the affairs of this province they have been deserving of the confidence of the people. On the contrary, sir, I am of opinion that in the management of the finances of this country they have shown a reckless disregard for the interests of the people, which has resulted in the

Depletion of the Surplus

provided by the late Hon. Sandfield MacDonald and his economical Government, and doing away with a large quantity of timber and other resources of this country, and leaving us a considerable amount to pay on account of railway obligations. I am not going to discuss, sir, to-night general legislation which has taken place in the House, more than to say this, sir, that much legislation in the interests of the people of this country has undoubtedly in the last eighteen years been placed upon the statute book of the Province of Ontario, but I claim, sir, that the little band which I have had the honor to lead since 1879 has had much to do with the modelling of the wise and proper legislation which appears on our statute book of to-day. And, sir, in our opinion, when they claim credit for the enfranchisement of every man living in the

country, when they claim credit for the legislation which has been in the interests of the workmen, I call you to witness—you, the intelligent observers—that the Opposition has been largely instrumental in forcing forward this great measure in the interests of the people of this country. (Applause.) Sir,

I Arraign the Government of Mr. Mowat. In respect of its administration of our crown lands and territorial revenues. I will point out to you briefly that a large portion of the revenues of this country derived from our timber lands has been spent by the Administration of Mr. Mowat, and what we, the Opposition, have been endeavoring to do, from time to time, is that these gentlemen, when they are about to dispose of the heritage of the people in respect to these timber limits, should come to the people's representatives in Parliament, and submit their propositions to the judgment of the people, and permit them to pass judgment upon them. But instead of doing that, sir, these gentlemen, forgetting the true principles of liberalism, have announced and have adhered to the policy of themselves determining what shall be done with the timber and resources of this country, and they have insisted on bringing into the market a large quantity of the timber of the country without consulting the people's representatives or taking them into their confidence. The result of this has been that large quantities of the timber upon the north shore of Lake Huron have been forced into the market under the pretence of fostering settlement, and this timber has passed into the hands of speculators to the amount of hundreds of thousands of dollars on the advanced value of those limits, and has practically gone out of the hands of the taxpayers of this country. Also in other portions of the country this same policy has prevailed and the result has been, as I have said, to permit a large portion of the resources of the country in these timber limits, whose value is increasing rapidly from year to year, to pass

Into the Pockets of Speculators.

instead of going to public purposes of this Province of Ontario. We have said all along that the timber policy of this Government has been wrong; that the House should be consulted before any large tract of timber was placed on the market, and we have asked, and I venture to appeal to every sensible man—for you are all sensible men here to-night, who have come for the purpose of hearing the observations which I have to make—I appeal to you whether the proposition made at the last session of Parliament by the Opposition that a commission should be appointed for the purpose of

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