

It might appear that this was the first move in the matter, but here again the Government were the first to take such a step. In the fall of 1890, the Government had a timber sale and inserted the condition, for the first time, requiring the logs to be sawn in Canada.

Then came the Ontario timber sale of 1892. In the meantime an agreement had been made between the Dominion Government and the United States, under which our trade in sawn lumber had expanded and had become more profitable; should that position be disturbed and the whole question re-opened? The Government, therefore, concluded not to re-open so large a question for such a small and doubtful benefit, and did not insert the condition. The sale was held, and although an increase of 25 per cent. was made in the timber due, the largest prices ever obtained were paid as bonus, and out of 633 miles sold only 78 miles went to Americans, and from these 78 miles down to this day not one log has been cut for exportation. One Canadian who purchased a four-mile limit has sold five millions of feet for export, and this is the entire quantity which has gone out of territory included in the timber sale of 1892. The Government pursued the wise course on that occasion.

It will be seen that Mr. Miscampbell's motion dealt with two distinct questions. It condemned the sale of timber lands without a previous vote of the Legislature, and it proposed that, in future sales, the condition of manufacture in the Province of Ontario should be inserted. It mixed up two matters which had nothing to do with each other. Fires frequently occur which render prompt sale of the damaged timber necessary, otherwise it goes to waste, as the boring insects get into it. If this motion had passed, such timber could not be sold until the House met and a vote was taken. There were other strong reasons why the discretion should remain with the Government. The manufacturing condition was to be a narrower one than was ever proposed or thought of before. It was to oblige the timber to be manufactured in the Province, so that Quebec mill-owners, who might buy logs from Ontario limits, would be unable to do so any longer, unless their mills were moved into the Province of Ontario. It was discrimination against the lumbermen of a sister province. Of course, such a motion, which, owing to the time and manner of its introduction, could not be amended, did not commend itself to the House, and so was voted down by a majority of 21.

In 1894 the matter again became an issue, and the policy of the Government up to that point was approved by their return at the general election of that year.

Following this the United States Congress conceded free lumber for free logs until the hostile Dingley Bill and its successive protectionism led the Ontario Government to pass the Act of 1897-8, providing for the insertion of the manufacturing conditions in all future licenses, and making the crown timber regulations conform thereto.