

August next, where whoever might be in charge of that exhibition would be brought in contact with representatives from those countries, and would be enabled to obtain the information that would perhaps enable us to preserve our forests from the destruction which has been going on from various causes. I do not intend to prolong my remarks in relation to this matter. I think the subject is one that ought to commend itself to the Government of the country and to the House, and I would venture to express the hope that the hon. leader of the Government, and the Government of which he is the head, will consider whether it would not be in the interests of this country, including all the Provinces, that the exhibit, if any be made in Edinburgh in connection with this forestry exhibition, should be made under the authority and under the auspices of the Central Government, instead of being divided up and subdivided, as it would be if made under the authority of the different Provinces.

Mr. WRIGHT. I should like to say something on the subject which has been brought before the House, and many members wish to speak on it, as it is a matter of great importance; and, as we should like to have an opportunity of doing so, I would prefer that the debate should be adjourned, if it would meet the views of the House. I move that the debate be adjourned.

Mr. WHITE (Renfrew). I think it would be desirable to have some expression from the Government in relation to this matter, because, if this debate is adjourned, it will take a place upon the paper where it will not likely be reached this Session.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. That would be paying a very bad compliment to my hon. friends who propose to speak, to come to any decision as to the course we ought to take before we hear their speeches. However, I might simply say that the Government thoroughly recognizes the importance of this question. The moment the official intimation was communicated to the Government that this forestry exhibition was to be held at Edinburgh, and inviting the action of the people of Canada as exhibitors, the Government transmitted copies of the papers to each of the Provinces—because the forests, as is well known, belong to the different Provinces, the Government having no authority of their own, except in the North-West, which is a prairie country principally, so that really it was in the hands of the Provincial Governments more than the Central Government—inviting them to act in the matter. There have been answers received from some of the Provinces but not from all. The papers will be brought down at once, the debate will go on, and I have no doubt the House will be glad to hear the discussion, and the Government will come to a conclusion as to what extent, if at all, they should ask for a vote of the House.

Mr. ORTON. I presume that the Dominion Government are making preparations for an exhibit at the coming Colonial Exhibition in Great Britain in 1886. No doubt the products of the forests of this country will be adequately represented there. It would also, I think, be desirable that we should have some expression of opinion by the Government as to whether they intend to have Canada represented at the Colonial Exhibition, because it would require some time to make the necessary preparation.

Mr. COCKBURN. I wish to take advantage of this opportunity to say a word in respect to a very important product of the forest—I need say nothing of the staple article of pine as it is always a saleable commodity—I refer to the article of birch. It is worth mentioning that we have in the northern part of Ontario, and, perhaps, in the northern part of Quebec also, an immense quantity of very valuable black birch. Walnut is becoming very dear and scarce, and has almost disappeared from Ontario, but we have a splendid substitute for it in this birch I

have mentioned. If the existence of this timber was made commonly known by the Government, it would be conferring a great boon upon the population throughout Northern Ontario. There is a vast quantity of this timber all along the Ottawa River to Lake Huron, which is very useful in the manufacture of furniture, and for various other purposes.

Mr. FISHER. Before this matter is disposed of, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to another phase of the question than that which has been alluded to by the mover of this motion, and that is that there will not only be an exhibition of forestry and of the products of the forest, but there will also be a meeting of gentlemen who are interested in tree planting and in the promotion of forestry, which is now obtaining a great deal of attention all over this continent. I would remind the First Minister that in our North-West, in that portion of it which is directly under the charge of this Government, the question of forestry is a very important one, and the report of such a commissioner as might be sent by this Government to this exhibition, would be of great value in regard to future tree-planting in the North-West. I have before me a circular by which I am sorry to see that exhibits at this exhibition ought to have been entered by the 1st of March, though it may be possible that exhibits from this country might still be allowed. I have also a communication from a gentleman who has been foremost in this country with regard to the science of forestry—I allude to the Hon. Mr. Joly, of the Province of Quebec. In speaking of this question, he says: "There is a serious risk at this late date in our sending exhibits to this exhibition, which might, perhaps, not do the country justice." At the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition our country obtained the foremost position in regard to lumbering exhibits, and it would be a cause of great regret to everybody in this country, especially those engaged in the lumber business, if Canada was not able to make a proper exhibit at the coming Colonial Exhibition. It is a question for serious consideration whether, at this late date, when the entries are already closed, we could make a satisfactory exhibit. I think that in view of the importance which forestry and tree-planting must obtain in the near future in this country, it would be very desirable that the Dominion Government should send a commissioner who might make a report, the publication and distribution of which would be very valuable in promoting the science of forestry in this country.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. We will consider the matter.

Motion agreed to and debate adjourned.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER AND IMMIGRATION.

Mr. BLAKE moved for a copy of the letter of the Minister of Agriculture of the 5th of July, and of all cablegrams addressed to the High Commissioner, calling his attention to the demand existing in Canada for the labouring classes, and informing him that notwithstanding the large immigration which has taken place the requirements are still unsatisfied. Also, copies of special circulars issued by the steamship companies quoting the Minister's cable messages by request of the High Commissioner. Also, copies of the cuttings from the London newspapers on the subject forwarded by the High Commissioner. He said: I consider these papers are important in connection with the question which exists in this country as to the prudence and the propriety of the steps which have been adopted by the Government with reference to the immigration of certain classes of the population. I hope the hon. gentleman will bring them down at an early date.

Mr. POPE. Of course it is understood that I am not to discuss this question now. Still, I think the hon. gentle-