

THE TIMBER DEALS.

What Mr. Ames' Work has Brought Home to the People.

It is pretty generally recognized by this time, we assume, that one of the men with whom the Government has to reckon is Mr. H. B. Ames, M.P. for St. Antoine division, Montreal. There was a tendency in the House of Commons, and there is still a tendency on the part of a section of the Government press, to attempt to belittle Mr. Ames, to sneer at the magic lantern slides which he employs to bring conviction to the minds of his audiences, and generally to seek to laugh him out of court, as a Sunday school teacher with energies misplaced. But Mr. Ames, having finished his work in Parliament—or, rather, gone as far in that way as the ministerialist majority in the packed committee of enquiry would let him—has taken to the wider field of the country at large. And the grin is on the other side of the Government's face.

It is safe to say that outside the ranks of the men who are prepared to defend this Government whatever it may have done or may do, there is no one who does not look with an honest contempt on the mean cunning which suggested the spoliation of the public domain in the West for the benefit of a handful of relatives, personal friends and political associates of the gentleman who was Minister of Interior when the raid was made. It is doubtful if there has been any depredation in Canada larger in respect of mere money. There has been certainly no transaction in the history of Canadian development meaner, more sordid, nastier, more squalid. And Mr. Fraser, the Liberal candidate in Ottawa, played a part in this game. Mr. Ames can take no pleasure in his exposure of this ugly graft, but in directing public attention to it and to the unchastened attitude of the men who were guilty of it and the cynical indifference of the men who defend them, he is performing a splendid public service.—*The Journal*, Ottawa.