

the Globe last Saturday to a certain extent contradicting that. I would like to get some light on that subject, as to whether it is really settled by the government.

The Chairman: First of all we have to come to the reception of this report. I think that discussion will come up a little later. This report lays out distinctly what the committee appointed by this body got from the government, and now these gentlemen have been talking to move the reception of this report. You have heard it moved by Ald. Scott, seconded by Mr. John Waldie, that this report be received; is that your pleasure?

The report was received.

Ald. Scott: There is no recommendation in the report; it is only a statement of facts, and it commits the meeting to no principle at all.

The Chairman: The notice of this meeting also gives power to take further action with regard to the lumber trade of this province. As I said before, the speeches will be confined to fifteen minutes.

THE PROPER COURSE TO TAKE.

Mr. John Bertram: I propose to follow the remarks which I may offer to the meeting with a resolution which I feel almost certain will obtain the support of ever lumberman present, without exception. I have endeavored to draw it in such a way that it will raise no questions of a controversial nature, while supporting what was really the view of the lumbermen at the last meeting, and asking that the government should take further action in this matter. It would be quite out of the way for me to offer an assembly of lumbermen here any remarks to the effect of the importance of the position which we now occupy in this controversy, which has arisen and has come upon us on account of the action taken by the American government. This meeting and the former meeting fully testifies that this is so. I will therefore confine myself to discussing what further action we may take in this matter, what further action it would be proper for us to take under the circumstances in which we find ourselves. There is no doubt, Mr. Chairman, that the crisis is a very grave crisis to some of us, and although there are sections here in Ontario that may not be interested in the same way as we are—the Ottawa district, where no American logs are exported, for instance—yet in the Georgian Bay district and its tributaries and in Western Ontario circumstances have arisen that call for the joint action of every one of us. Now, I am not disposed, and do not think any of you are, to say one single word as to the rights of the position of, and the good will which we all feel towards the Americans who have invested money in Canada. I have taken occasion every time that this matter has come up to express my own desire that they should be treated not only justly, but generously; but after we have said that, there is a duty we owe to ourselves and to our country—we must look facts in the face—and they themselves have brought about the very condition of things which we have met here to discuss and on which we must take action. Now, it is quite possible for us to advocate two or three courses as to what the proper position would be for lumbermen to take up in Ontario. One of them is: We may go down to Ottawa and ask that the Ottawa government, which took power to put an export duty of lumber at the last session of Parliament, should exercise that power and place an export duty on logs equivalent to the import duty on lumber going into the United States. That would be the best way to even up the condition of things. There is no doubt, whatever, that it was entirely in the minds of the parties who had the legislation carried out in Washington that that would be done, because it existed for many years—I don't know how many years. As long, I think, as I have been connected with the lumber business there has been an export duty on logs, and this export duty was only done away with by an agreement which was made between the Government of Ontario and the Government at Ottawa. The duty on lumber was reduced from two dollars to one dollar, and they had free access to our timber. Now, it was from no course taken up by our people in Canada that this was changed; it was brought about by the American people themselves, and we are here to-day to say whether we will allow ourselves to remain in the position that our business, that of sawing lumber, must perforce be taken from Ontario and carried on in Michigan. Mr. Waldie correctly stated the case, that if we are to carry on our business under existing circumstances, those who succeed us will be obliged to carry on their business in Michigan—that is the real state of things.

LOOKS TO THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT.

Now, then, what position would it be just and right for us to take up? I don't think, all things considered, that we could go to Ottawa and ask the Ottawa government to take action, for the simple reason that American people themselves have made it impossible, because they have introduced a retaliatory clause which will cause the duty of two dollars per thousand to be raised to four dollars per thousand; therefore, if there is any other way to straighten out this matter, I think it will be better than to go to Ottawa. We might go to Ottawa and ask the Ottawa government not to put a duty on logs, but to prohibit logs altogether, allow no logs to be exported from Canada at all. Now, Mr. Chairman, I am quite prepared to take up either of these two positions. If it is thought by this meeting that it will be better for us to prohibit the export of logs from any part of the Dominion, I am prepared to join and go to Ottawa and advocate it. But I do not think it is necessary to do that. I think that we here in Ontario have an easier and a better plan than we would have by going to Ottawa, and I submit to you the method by which this should be gone about. In speaking of it, I would say that in the action which we propose to take the Ontario government have already themselves assented that it would be in the public interest that all logs should be sawn in Canada, because they introduced a new regulation at the last sale of limits declaring that the timber which was then to be sold should be sawn in the province of Ontario. Therefore they assent, and we now ask them to go one step further.



MR. D. C. CAMERON,
(Rat Portage Lumber Company, Rat Portage, Ont.)

Now, as to our rights to interfere with the license after it had been issued, I have not been able to see eye to eye with my friend, Mr. Scott, in that matter. I have not been able to join with him in the position which he takes that it would be a proper and just thing for us to interfere with current licenses. There is this to be said about it, that after an operator goes into the woods and takes in his men, teams, supplies and other things, and goes on with his operations under the license granted by the government and subject to the provisions of the license, it is reasonable to say that these operations should not be interfered with so far as the destination of the logs goes, and I am not inclined to blame the Ontario government for the action taken. That has been my own opinion from the very first; but while I go as far as that, I think, nevertheless, that we have the absolute power—you all know as well as I do that we have the power; that has never been denied by the Imperial government themselves, that we have the right to put in any regulation in those licenses that has the interests of the public at heart. That is the position, and it is not denied even by the opponents who do not want the Ontario government to take action at all. It is admitted on all hands, I think, that they have the power. The resolution which I submit is as follows:

MR. BERTRAM'S RESOLUTION.

Moved by John Bertram, seconded by James Scott, that whereas at a meeting of lumbermen held in Toronto on August 19th, it was resolved to present to the government the following declaration: "That in the opinion of this meeting, the exportation of saw logs should be restricted; and with that object in view, the government of the Province of Ontario be requested to so amend the

pine timber regulations that all pine timber cut under license in the Province of Ontario shall be manufactured in Canada;" and whereas the committee appointed to wait on the government to urge the adoption of the report have obtained from the Commissioner of Crown Lands an answer to the following effect: "That the government entertain the opinion that during the currency of the existing licenses such action as was proposed by the resolution of the meeting of August 19th could not well be taken." (I may say, however, that the government are very carefully considering what policy should be adopted with reference to the logs cut after the expiration of the existing licenses, and it is hoped that in a short time the public will be made aware of the course which may be determined upon). Be it therefore resolved, that without expressing an opinion on that part of the government policy relating to current licenses, we declare it to be in the public interest that when new licenses are issued after 30th April, 1898, a regulation be embodied in every license that all timber on the Crown Lands of Ontario shall be sawn, made into square timber, or otherwise manufactured in Canada; that a copy of this resolution be sent to the members of the Government of Ontario and to every member of the Legislative Assembly, and that all who approve of this policy use every legitimate effort to have it carried into effect.

ENTITLED TO JUSTICE.

After reading the resolution, Mr. Bertram said: Now, it is a reasonable thing for us, I think, to give the Ontario government sufficient time—they have had a month in which to make up their minds—but we are absolutely determined in this matter that we are going to have right and justice done no matter who may suffer. This is a matter so vital to many of us that we are determined to push the action as far as we can. We will give the government all fair and reasonable time and terms in which to state their opinion, but we are entitled to an opinion, I think, within a reasonable time.

Regarding the government policy relating to current licenses, Mr. Bertram added: There may be reasonable difference of opinion—you are entitled in voting to hold your own opinion on that matter. The mischief, if any, has been done, because they are into the woods now just as far, I think, as they can go. I know this, that after the Michigan gentlemen were here, with my friend Mr. Charlton (I don't know what special influence they had with the government, I don't know what answer they got), but I can say this of my own knowledge, that they met there on the 7th of September, and that there were individuals in my own district who were waiting during that time; they were waiting and not putting their men into the bush; and within six days after the men were here they were in with their appliances and men. We don't know what answer they got, it was not published, but we know by the effects that took place.

Ald. Scott: I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution, which I may support with some remarks later on.

Mr. Beck: Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I do not think the resolution goes quite far enough. As far as it goes, I think it is all right. If the Ontario government has committed itself for this year to allow the Americans to take the logs over free, I would not be in favor of it—I do not think they are entitled to have an advantage over the Canadian lumbermen. I propose, in addition to the resolution, that while they are getting the logs without export duty, any logs that are exported should pay double dues and any logs manufactured in Canada should be reduced one-half. I think that would remedy matters for this year, and I fail to see why the government have not a right to do so, as they have formerly raised the dues on all pine timber on Crown lands without giving any notice. All I want is for our government to put us on an equal footing with the Michigan lumbermen, and if what I suggest was done, it would to a large extent place us in that position. The Dominion government could amend the Act so that, instead of two or three dollars duty, the export duty on our logs going to the United States would be equal to the duty charged on our lumber. That would throw the burden on the Americans, and then it would be in the interests of the Michigan people to try and get the duty lowered. Now, they would rather work it the other way. I think the first clause I mentioned might be added to this resolution; the other might be put into a separate resolution later on. These are propositions that it struck me should be considered.

The Chairman: Do I understand you want to move an amendment to the resolution?

Mr. Beck: I would like to move that.

Dr. Spohn: I think we had better discuss this resolu-