

T. Valin, M.P., and G. Ross,	do	2	do
Thos. Arkell, M.P., and associates,	do	6	do
Wm. Elliott, M.P.,	do	5	do
M. H. Gault,	do	2	do

Mr. GAULT. No, Sir, my name is found nowhere on the books.

Mr. CHARLTON. This is taken from the Sessional Papers of 1883, Volume 16, No. 12, Return No. 84.

Mr. GAULT. I never spent one cent, and had nothing to do with any territory in the North-West. I went up there to buy land, but I saw so much of it that I came away.

Mr. CHARLTON. This refers to the applications. I will read on:

Robt. Doull, M.P.,	applied for 4	Townships.
Geo. P. Orton, M.P.,	do	6 do
C.F. Ferguson, M.P., and associates,	do	6 do
P. Valin, M.P.,	do	1 do
J. C. Patterson and associates,	do	7 do
J. S. McCuaig, M.P.,	do	1 do
James Beaty, M.P.,	do	1 do
J. E. Daoust, M.P.,	do	6 do
Charles Wallace, M.P., and associates,	do	6 do
O. C. Colby, M.P., and others,	do	6 do
Senator Almon and others,	do	12½ do
D. Macmillan, M.P.,	do	6 do

Here are the names of twenty-one members of Parliament making applications for land to the Government, to be received on conditions so favorable that they expected to secure these lands at half price, or \$1 an acre. In addition, Sir A. T. Galt applied for fifty townships, and that gentleman was allowed \$1,500 from the Treasury of Canada to pay his expenses while he went to the North-West to select his land. Here are other names:

Wm. Sharples,	applied for 2	Townships.
Robt. Henry and others,	do	4 do
H. Symmes,	do	6 do
D. Tisdale,	do	6 do
A. T. Drummond,	do	17 do
Thos. Long and George Moberly,	do	15 do
A. Ferguson,	do	39 do
D. Tisdale,	do	6 do

Now, Sir, these applications, made in the space of one year and eight days, covered 2,295 townships in the North-West; and the effect, I repeat, of this scheme upon the elections of 1882, was very marked indeed. Every speculator who embarked in this speculation, covering this vast area, was a friend of the Government; it was in his interest that the Government should be maintained, that the regulations by which he was to receive land at half price, should not be rescinded by another Government adopting an honest policy; and for that reason no more potent factor in the elections of 1882 exerted its influence upon that result, than the policy of the Government with regard to the colonisation plan No 1, so called. And the Government, now that that the result has hardly been as those gentlemen anticipated, are adopting a plan to let them out as easily as possible; those who have taken blocks of townships and have made partial payments, are to be permitted to consolidate their interest, to select such parts of the township as they may choose—and, of course, they will select the cream of the thing—and the payments made covering the whole tract are permitted to be concentrated upon the best portions of the township, and they will receive land in accordance with the payments made, be it more or less, and their interests so far as the Government can care for them, will be carefully guarded.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have spoken rather longer than I anticipated. Fearing that the list I had got would not go into the *Hansard*, I have read the most of it. I have but to recapitulate, I have to say that the policy of this Government, first, with regard to railway bonuses, voting away here in one Session the sum of \$8,000,000 to bribe members of this House, and voting \$22,500,000 more for another

Mr. CHARLTON.

purpose; these bonuses in the aggregate amounted to over \$8,000,000, a large proportion of this sum being granted to railway corporations in which members of this House had a direct pecuniary interest; and if the truth could be known a considerable number of the members of this House did, in effect, in sustaining and supporting that resolution with regard to railway bonuses, put money into their own pockets. It was an infringement on the independence of Parliament. Any member interested in a road that received aid from the Government in that scheme, was not in a condition to exercise the function of an independent member of Parliament. With regard to timber limits, I have shown the enormous areas granted without competition. The Government granted them to their own favorites, to their own supporters in this House; granted them without adequate consideration, and we have seen vast gains accruing to friends of the Government, to the loss of the country to whom the land belongs. We have had pasture leases to the extent of 2,500,000 acres granted at 1 cent an acre without competition, granted in advance of the requirements of the public, so that to-day, after years have elapsed since the policy was inaugurated, there is not one head of cattle to 38 acres upon that land grant, and granted to speculators, in a great number of instances without competition, and presumably to favorites of the Government.

We find again the Government favoring its friends in the matter of coal land leases, making the path to fortune easy to them, and acting in a way which they must have known would result in fortune to their friends and indeed coal to the people of the North-West. We find colonisation land applications pouring in upon the Government for 2,300 townships in one year, grants made to their friends wherever the grants do not conflict with each other, and a middleman class created by the Government, that curse of the settler and of the pioneer—a middleman class created by the Government, receiving his land for half price, and placed in a position where he could turn and sell to the settler, under some circumstances, land for ten times the price he paid for it. Did the Government, in adopting this policy, have an eye to the interest of the settlers who are looking to the North-West? Was it governed by that principle that has governed the policy upon this side of the House—the land for the people and the people for the land? No, Sir; and when we lament the condition of the North-West, the slow movement of the population into that country, the development of that country retarded by various causes, we may attribute nearly all the results which we have to deplore in the North-West to the policy of the Government.

In all these matters to which I have referred members of this House have had the inside track. They have had the ear of the Government; they have known what the Government plans were. They could go to the various Departments and lay their case before the Government, and they always found in those Departments friends willing to oblige them. They were in point of fact invited to ask favors of the Government, and they never came to the Government and asked a favor in vain. Mr. Speaker, I have approached this subject with personal regret. Whether hon. gentlemen opposite will believe me or not, it is not a task congenial to me to probe this matter and expose these irregularities upon the part of the Government. The task has fallen upon me, and I have endeavored to discharge it in a spirit of fairness and as temperately as possible. No doubt many hon. gentlemen on the opposite side of the House, probably all hon. gentlemen opposite, feel they have pursued a proper course in these matters, and do not see anything irregular in receiving bonuses from the Government for their private aims and purposes, in receiving timber limits from the Government for themselves and their friends without the limits being put up to competition, and in making \$100,000 out of \$250 in one extreme.