

policy." A campaign pamphlet, issued by the Ministry, in 1894, declared that to interfere with the Michigan lumbermen, "would bring about a disastrous crisis, which would affect not Ontario alone, but the entire Dominion." As late as 1897 the Government pleaded for the Michigan interests. It declared through Mr. Gibson that it had sold the limits without any restriction as to the manufacturing of lumber or the exporting of logs, and that to impose restrictions afterwards would be a breach of faith.

In 1888 Mr. Meredith made a motion for a "select committee to enquire into the extent and nature of the timber and mineral resources of the provinces and the best means within the control of the Legislature for the conservation of the former and the development of the latter, with power to send for persons, papers, and records."

Now, the object of that was this, that the people of Ontario might be told after the examination and surveys were made, what were the extent of the areas and value of our timber and mineral resources, so that they would not only be able to form an opinion as to what should be best done with them, but that they would be able to judge intelligently of the action of their representatives in Parliament with regard to these two great questions. (Hear, hear.) The Government—I well remember it—the Government refused the motion with regard to timber, but accepted it with regard to minerals, and in consequence of that motion a commission was appointed which did investigate into the mineral resources of this province, which you all recollect.

And still we have never had any policy! Why, every step they have taken, every act they have done with relation to any of these great public resources can be traced back to its initiation in the Conservative party. On the 18th May, 1893, Mr. Miscampbell moved this motion:—

"That this House disapproves of the policy of disposing of the timber reserves of the province without its approval being first obtained, and is of the opinion that the right to cut timber upon the present reserves should be sold under such conditions as will insure the manufacture of the timber cut thereupon within the province, and more effectually guard against the unnecessary cutting and destruction of the small timber growing on such reserves."

The motion was voted down. Then, in 1894, the same gentleman moved again that in many parts of the country the saw milling industries had been transferred to Michigan and other States, and that the policy of the Government ought to be changed with a view to preventing this loss to our own province. That was voted down also. But in one sale the Government imposed a condition that the logs sold should be manufactured in Canada or Ontario—I forget which. What was the effect? All the timber limits to which this applied, except two or three, were situate north of the height of land, and unless you took the sawlogs to Michigan in a balloon they never could go there. (Hear, hear.) So that there was no danger. (Applause.) There were no speculators to get annoyed at all; it was all lovely, and the Government members nudged each other in the ribs and said, "What smart fellows we are." There were a couple of limits sold at that time which were south of the height of land, and if my recollection serves me right, the condition was withdrawn with regard to them a short time afterwards. That has been, as I have shown you, from time to time, our policy all along, without one word being said up to the time I have mentioned in favor of the opposition policy on the other side, and I challenge the production of any such word.

In October, 1897, I gave an interview to a newspaper in Ottawa, which was published in The Mall and Empire of the next day also, in which I said several things, and for fear I shall be accused of leaving something out I had better read it all:—

Mall, October 6th, 1897.

"It is difficult to understand," continued Mr. Whitney, "the motives which influenced the Government in dealing with the question. Three years ago the