

In the first ten years the growth was 37,580, and in the second it was 38,529, or in the twenty years 76,109.

A region which has increased in population nearly 500 per cent. in twenty years can hardly be said to be stagnated, depressed or depopulated.

The "Illiberal" Policy of the Government!

The next charge is that "owing to the illiberal policy of the Ontario Government, disputes between Crown Timber Agents, timber licensees and the settlers on farm lands are of frequent occurrence. Families seeking homes in our unsettled western country cannot be induced to remain long in a place where they are obliged to pay dues to the Government on every stick of pulpwood, cedar, spruce, etc., that they sell to get a little ready money to help them in their pioneer days." (Page 23.)

The answer: The regulations passed by the Sandfield Macdonald Government prohibited locatees or purchasers from cutting or selling a stick of any kind of wood beyond the limits of their actual clearing before the completion of settlement duties, on pain of having the timber seized as cut in trespass. The policy of the present Government with respect to settlers is entirely different, and much more liberal. Under it, the settlers are allowed to cut and dispose of in any way they see fit all kinds of wood growing on their located or purchased lands, except the pine, and they are not charged one cent in the way of dues, bonus or anything else. They are also allowed to cut and use free of any charge whatever pine timber they may require for building or fencing upon their lands, and to cut into sawlogs or timber and dispose of any pine timber which they have to remove in clearing their land; upon the latter, when sold to lumbermen, they are only charged the ordinary dues, although the lumberman on whose limits the timber is cut may have paid considerable sums in bonus to the Government.

There are no disputes between the Crown Timber Agents and the settlers. Sometimes disputes arise between the timber licensees and the settlers, and it occasionally happens that the Department is appealed to to decide the dispute, when it sends a Crown Timber Agent to make an investigation and to see that the settler gets his rights, whatever they may be. But the Government has gone even further to assist the settlers, and has undertaken, where settlers have squatted in townships which have not been opened for settlement and where they really have no legal standing, to protect them, provided they are *bona fide* settlers and not mere speculators. These squatters are also permitted to cut and sell, free of any charge for dues, all timber other than pine upon their lands, and power has been taken by Order in Council authorizing the Crown Lands Department to withdraw any lot from a timber license for everything except the pine timber, should that be necessary to protect the settler. In practice it is found that the lumbermen rarely object to the *bona fide* settler cutting and selling the timber other than pine, and considering the thousands of settlers resident in the newer parts of the Province, the cases where friction does arise are very few in number.

Another False Charge.

The next charge is the voting down of the following resolution: "That whenever the quantity of pine timber growing upon any lot is less than 50,000 feet board measure, such lot shall be withdrawn from license, and the locatee, on obtaining his patent, be entitled to such timber under such regulations as may be passed for the purpose of securing as far as practicable the same being retained as a timber reserve for local use." (See page 24).

The answer: It will be seen that under this resolution the timber was not to become the settlers' property, but was to be retained by regulation as a "timber reserve for local use." Now the Government had already tried this policy in a more liberal spirit than this resolution proposed. It had lots inspected, and whenever it found less than 40,000 feet of pine on them, withdrew them from license, leaving the pine standing for the settler's own use. A large number of lots were so withdrawn, but it was found that in nearly every instance the settler sold the timber to the timber licensee from whose limits the lots had been withdrawn, the effect being that no local supply was reserved, and the timber licensee had to buy his timber twice over—once from the Government by public auction,

	Increase.
6	34,838
3	11,372
1	15,865
7	14,034
7	76,109