

tion by associating itself with a transaction of this kind, is indeed a most lamentable spectacle. It is said in Holy Writ—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. CHARLTON. I do not wonder that any reference to Holy Writ should provoke derisive cheers and laughter from the other side.

An hon. MEMBER. Coming from that source.

Mr. CHARLTON. It is said in Holy Writ that "wherever the carcase is, thither will the eagles be gathered." It is the nation that is the prey in this case, around which the eagles are gathered. What are they engaged in doing? They are engaged in squandering millions of public money; they are engaged in piling up a gigantic debt which reaches to-day at least \$250,000,000, or double that of the United States per capita, a debt that has increased 250 per cent. since the Confederation of the Provinces, while our population has increased but 38 per cent.; they have been engaged in running up the expenditure of the country from \$13,000,000 to \$35,000,000, or an increase of 250 per cent. against an increase in population of 38 per cent. And while we have a deficit staring us in the face of many millions, these gentlemen have imposed on the country a measure which will cost annually from \$500,000 to \$750,000 for the purpose of so arranging the electoral list of the country so as to retain themselves in power. They have spent millions in railway subsidies, granted mainly to their favorites; they have granted pasture land leases at one cent an acre; they have granted coal land leases and monopolies to their favorites, following the train of which will be dear fuel for the settler, and large dividends for their friends; they have made colonisation grants at half price, practically, to their friends, while the settler is required to pay the full price; and they have granted timber limits, year after year, without competition. The applicants for timber limits have come in swarms; they have flown like doves to the window from which the favors of the Government have been dispensed. Members of Parliament, brothers of members of Parliament, sons of members of Parliament, nephews of members of Parliament, cousins of members of Parliament—the faithful and deserving of every kind, every station, and every degree, have been the recipients of those favors at the hands of the Government; and hundreds, I had almost said thousands, of limits have been granted to the faithful without competition. In secret an empire has been bartered away, a great trust placed in the hands of the Administration has been squandered for political purposes and bestowed upon political favorites. These gentlemen have an eagle eye for the prey, and the nation's property, I repeat, is the carcase about which the eagles are gathered. The honor of the country, even quotations from Holy Writ, are the laughing stock of these gentlemen; and it is but natural such should be the case. Now, in every part of the Government's policy—in its policy with regard to timber limits; in its policy with regard to railway bonuses granted to members; in its policy with regard to pasture land leases; in its policy with regard to coal land leases, to colonisation grants—in all these things the policy of the Government will be defended. The Minister of the Interior will rise in his place ere long, and defend the Government in all these things; others upon that side will defend them. I wonder if Solomon, long ago, with his prophetic eye, had our Parliament in view when he penned that memorable phrase: "Such is the way with the adulterous woman; she eateth and wipeth her mouth, and sayeth I have done no wickedness." So with these hon. gentlemen. They will eat the substance of the nation, they will wipe their mouth and get up in the House of Commons and say we have done no wickedness.

Mr. CHARLTON.

An hon. MEMBER. No.

Mr. CHARLTON. You will. They believe the apathy of the nation is so great that they can outrage decency in any manner they please. The scenes that transpired here last night would seem to indicate that they believe the nation cannot be aroused, that they can venture to do anything, and their followers will follow them with blind devotion. Yes, Sir, they imagine that the nation is dead, dead under the beaks of the eagles that are gathered together to the prey; and I often wonder may not this be the case? Will neither shame for the shameless conduct of this Government, nor interest in our own behalf as a people, interest in having our property preserved for us and our rights respected, nor regard for the glorious past through which our ancestors have vindicated their right to be a free people, nor hope for the future that lies before us; will none of these things induce the people of Canada to rouse themselves from their lethargy, to rouse themselves from their apathy, and rebuke the men who have for years, in this House of Commons, in administering the affairs of this country, done despite to every principle of justice and to every principle of decency in the management of public affairs. Now, in dealing with the timber limit question, it will be charged, no doubt—

Mr. ORTON. Give some instances?

Mr. CHARLTON. I will give some instances, and the name of the hon. member for Wellington (Mr. Orton) will figure among the instances; they are coming. It will be charged, no doubt, that the Mackenzie Government gave licenses without competition.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. CHARLTON. I heard that responded to by the "hear, hear" on the opposite side. Well, we must bear in mind, in examining this question, that the circumstances of the case between 1874 and 1878 and the circumstances of the case at the present day in the North-West differ widely. The policy of granting timber limits in the North-West under the Mackenzie Government was avowedly a temporary policy, and it was resorted to because competition could not be obtained. The propriety of competition was fully recognised by the Mackenzie Government, it was attempted to obtain competition, and the licenses granted by that Government were strictly limited to the needs of the country, and were granted only to those who were prepared to produce lumber for the settlers of the North-West. Not a speculative license was granted, not one. The licenses, I repeat, were *bond fide* licenses, granted to individuals who wished to commence the production of lumber for the settlers of the North-West. But, when railways reached the North-West, when the settlement of that country had fairly commenced, the conditions of the country, it is obvious to any hon. gentleman in this House, were changed, and, with the opening up of the country, with the change of government, the policy of making grants of timber licenses or limits was no longer confined, as under the Mackenzie Administration, to the actual requirements of the country. In place of limiting the licenses granted to men who actually designed entering upon the business of producing lumber, licenses were granted to speculators, knowingly granted to speculators. The Government knew it was granting licenses and Orders in Council, in ten instances at least, to speculators, where it was issuing licenses to produce lumber in one instance. It knew that its friends were coming to it in hundreds, in order to obtain Orders in Council without the intention of erecting mills or producing lumber. Now, if we had been left without action on the part of the Reform party during the interim between Mr. Mackenzie's retirement from the Government and the present day, the plea might be set up with great