

Such a system as the Dominion Government has pursued in regard to Dominion lands, without complaint from their supporters in or out of Parliament, would easily deprive the Province of the millions which our unsold limits are destined to realize under the policy pursued by the Reform Government of the Province.

ONTARIO AND DOMINION METHODS CONTRASTED.

The Province has realized so far from the bonuses obtained for timber limits nearly \$6,000,000, (\$5,859,592), besides ground rents and timber dues. The amount realized, including rents and timber dues, according to last printed papers, is nearly \$16,000,000, (\$15,745,526). This large sum, as I have already intimated, has helped to enable grants to be made in aid of important railways, and for the erection of buildings and other works needed for the public service. To get the best prices for the timber limits, times of prosperity have been chosen for the sales; the sales have been largely advertised, they have been made by auction; the limits have gone to the highest bidders, whether these bidders happened to be political friends or political foes, and by all these means the highest prices going at the time of the sales or before the sales have in every instance been obtained. The way of our opponents in dealing with the timber limits of the Dominion, where unhappily they have had power, has been different. Their sales, as a rule, have brought a mere song, they have not been advertised beforehand; have not been by auction; have been made privately, and the purchasers have, as a rule, been political friends of the Dominion Government, or the associates of political friends, often members of Parliament, and not persons engaged or intending to engage in the manufacture of lumber. These persons are allowed to buy at nominal prices in order that they may put either into their own pockets or into the political election fund the difference between what they pay and what would be obtained if the sales were conducted like those of the Reform Government of the Province. To prevent such scandals in future, Mr. Blake, in 1882, moved in the House of Commons that "It is expedient to apply the just principle of public competition to the granting of timber limits," and the motion was negatived by a party vote. The party wished to retain the power of rewarding in this way political friends or of obtaining money for elections.

Take a few well known cases illustrating the system pursued by our political opponents where they have power.

WHITE FISH RESERVE.

Take, for example, the case of what is called the White Fish Reserve. This reserve was one of the limits sold by the Province in 1872, and before my Premiership. The land was then supposed to belong to the Province. The price obtained at the sale was \$9,000, or about \$100 per square mile. The locality was at that time wild; there were no railways of which advantage could be taken, and the limit was, in consequence, difficult of access. All these circumstances affected the value. The Dominion Government afterwards discovered that the limit was an Indian reserve, and, in 1885, they re-sold it, privately and secretly, without advertising, without communication with us, and without our knowledge. The limit had increased in value since 1872, the C.P.R. having in the interval been constructed through the limit and the country opened up, good facilities created for getting in supplies and getting out logs and timber, and there had been no depreciation in any other respect. Yet, with all these reasons for an increased price in 1885, what did the Dom-