

Costigan, as I am informed by Mr. Ryley, of the Crown timber branch of the Department, never applied for and never obtained a timber license.

Mr. CAMERON (Huron). I read the letters.

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell). You read the letters of John Costigan, not Hon. John Costigan, who is the Minister of Inland Revenue.

Mr. CAMERON (Huron). The hon. gentleman knows that John and Hon. John Costigan is the same man; his son's name is not only John. He has a middle name. Does the hon. gentleman expect to escape through that small knot-hole? It will not go down. It is just because Ministers of the Crown set the example of sharing in the public spoils, that their followers have done likewise. But John or the Hon. John obtained other *loot* from the public resources. On the 20th of July, 1882, John Costigan and three others, obtained from the Government 59,000 acres of grazing lands, on Mountain Creek. Mr. Costigan's son was a partner in the St. Catharines' Lumber Company, and this company obtained 32,000 acres of timber lands in the disputed territory. Now, Sir, I say I have shown clearly, out of the mouth of the Minister of the Interior; from the returns brought down to Parliament, and from the blue-books submitted to Parliament, that every charge levelled against the Administration, especially with reference to the disposal of timber limits in the North-West and in the disputed territory, has been proved to the very letter; and I challenge any man, whose mind is not biased by a share of the spoils, to investigate these returns and blue books, and arrive at any other conclusion than that the charges made against the Administration have been proved. I have no controversy with the Minister of the Interior personally; many of these grants, if not all, took place before he assumed office. The hon. gentleman's controversy is not with me; it is with the returns and the blue-books submitted to Parliament, and all I can say on that point is that if he can successfully overcome the facts shown in the returns for his own Department and in the blue-books, he is eminently qualified to fill the highest position in this Administration. Believing as I do that the policy of this Administration, not only with reference to timber limits, but with reference to the disposal of the public resources, is a vicious and bad policy; believing as I do that a bad example is being set, not only to the members of the House, but to the people of the country, by their misconduct; believing, as I do, that the action of the Administration in parceling out and dividing up, among their camp followers in and out of Parliament, a large portion of the public domain and the resources of this country, deserves the condemnation of Parliament, as I am sure it will receive the condemnation of the people. I shall support the motion of the hon. member for North Norfolk.

Mr. TAYLOR. I have no desire to prolong this debate, but in justice to myself, in justice to the hon. members who sit on this side, with whom I associate, and in justice to my constituents, I feel it to be my duty to repudiate the slander made against me at a place called Wingham, in Ontario, by a person named M. C. Cameron, in a speech which he delivered there, and which was reported in the *Globe* of 12th January last. It reads as follows:—

"George Taylor represents in the Conservative interest South Leeds. He, too, cast longing eyes on the vast coal and timber lands of the North-West. He accordingly applied to this Government, who distribute with no sparing hand the public estate among their followers, for both coal lands and timber limits. This did not exactly gratify the ambitious views of Mr. Taylor. He lives in Gananoque, a small town and with a limited population. In the Conservative interest he persuaded the Government to build, at the public expense, costly public buildings in this country village. This is not all. Last Session Parliament voted a sum of \$20,000 to dam the Rideau Canal in order to supply water to the mills and factories in Gananoque in which Mr.

Taylor and his constituents are deeply interested. George Taylor is the bond slave of Sir John, and dare not vote against the Government."

In answer to which I can only say that I have no interest in any timber limits, or coal lands, or grazing lands in either Manitoba or the North-West Territories, that I never applied for either coal lands or timber limits or grazing lands in the North-West Territory or Manitoba, and that I have no interest, individually, or am I associated with any other party who has any interest in said lands or limits. This fellow Cameron, who made that statement, knew when he made it that it was a malicious falsehood. I say that that statement was manufactured out of whole cloth. I say that there was no foundation for it. I expect this fellow Cameron is the paid agent of the Grit party to go round the country abusing—what he cannot call himself—a gentleman. When I read that article, I wrote the following letter to the Minister of the Interior:—

"GANANOQUE 14th January, 1886.

"MY DEAR SIR,—Please let me know what applications I have made for either coal lands or timber limits in Manitoba or the North-West, if any either since or before June, 1882, and if any were allotted to me, and on what terms, and oblige,

"Yours faithfully,
"GEO. TAYLOR.

"Hon. T. WHITE, Esq.,
Minister of the Interior."

To which I received the following reply:—

"OTTAWA, 19th January, 1886.

"MY DEAR TAYLOR,—I have your note of the 14th asking what applications you had made to the Department for either coal or timber lands. I handed it to Mr. Ryley, the clerk who has charge of these matters, and I send you herewith his memorandum.

"Yours truly,
"THOS. WHITE."

"GEORGE TAYLOR, Esq. M.P.,
"Gananoque, Ont."

(Memo.)

"DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, DOMINION LANDS OFFICE,
"OTTAWA, 15th January, 1886.

"There is no record in this Department of an application having been received from Mr. George Taylor, of Gananoque, for either coal or timber lands in Manitoba or the North-West Territories.

"There is, however, a letter from him dated the 3rd October, 1883, in which he states that a friend asked him to enquire upon what terms the Department would grant a certain timber limit in the Pasquia Hills. In reply to which letter he was sent a copy of the regulations governing disposal of timber in Manitoba and the North-West Territories. No further correspondence upon the subject referred to in that letter.

"Respectfully submitted,
"G. U. RYLEY."

I may say that the friend referred to in that letter was a gentleman by the name of Mr. Henry Ruttle, who removed from my county to the Prince Albert country, and wrote me to know if he could secure timber land, as he was erecting a flour and sawmill in that section. I sent the letter to the Department and received the answer I have given. This wholly proves my statement that the charge preferred against me by that gentleman is a wilful falsehood. If the party who made this statement is the party who represents West Huron I must express my regret that a gentleman aspiring to the position of a statesman should stoop so low as to go round the country slandering those who honestly differ with him on political questions. I will just keep the House for a few minutes, while I show how this hon. gentleman stands in his dealings with the Department with reference to lands in the North-West. Here is a letter written from Winnipeg which throws some light on that point:

"WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, 14th July, 1882.

"LINDSAY RUSSELL, Esq., Department of the Interior, Ottawa.

"DEAR SIR,—We beg to enclose you a list of some lands lately purchased by us through a Mr. Gray, from Sir Richard Cartwright and from Mr. Cameron, the payments for which have been fully made to the Government. We should look upon it as a very great favor if you would very kindly give instructions for the issue of these patents with as little delay as possible.

"Very truly yours,
(Signed) "BOYLE, CAMPBELL & CO."

I have the following detailed statement which I will read to the House:—