

Much of the area cruised as high as 60,000 feet of timber per acre. The tract was assessed at \$421,800 while the Timber Company which acquired the lands, listed them in a prospectus as an asset at the valuation of \$609,000. All these, and many similar facts were brought out in the investigations of the Public Accounts Committee. How many similar transactions there were the Government was unable to tell.

Article V

Costly Patronage

It was proved, in connection with the building of the new wing of the Parliament Buildings - at a cost greater than the cost of the entire original buildings - that contracts had been let to bidders who were not the lowest tenderers. In the case of one contractor (McDonald), the tender was reduced \$20,000 at the suggestion of the Department of Public Works and still was far from being the lowest tender.

McDonald testified before the Public Accounts Committee that he had been compelled to let sub-contracts to the persons selected by the Government "Patronage Committee" and, though he stated he protested, in writing, against this procedure, he refused to produce the letters of protest, pleading them "libellous", and was sustained in his refusal by the Government majority on the Committee. Letters from the Public Works Department notifying McDonald that his tender was accepted (because it was **lowest**) were known by him to be false, and so admitted.