

value of this service is admitted by all, and it is not too much to say that since its establishment in 1885 millions of dollars worth of timber have been saved from destruction by fire. Further, the idea is conveyed that these Fire Rangers are selected and appointed by the Government. This is untrue. The fact that they are selected and nominated by the owners of the timber limits (a large proportion of whom are Conservatives) is also concealed. The Government merely formally ratify the selection made by the owners, and have no voice whatever in the selection. The limit owner pays one-half of the charge and the Government the other half.

### Free Grant Townships.

It is stated that there are now 150 townships open to free grant settlers, many of which have not a single settlement. The facts are that there are 156 townships open for settlement as free grants, in every one of which there are large settlements.

### The Charge as to Colonization Bridges.

Pages 28, 29 and part of 30 profess to deal with payments to the bridge builder or bridge overseer in several cases where small bridges were being built or repaired, the object being to show that the overseer drew a large proportion of the expenditure, in some cases more than the expenditure upon all the other labor connected with the bridge.

**The answer:** He is treated in the pamphlet as simply an overseer. The facts are very simple: A bridge builder is employed to do special bridge building or repairs. It is his business; he is an expert. He is not merely an overseer, he is a bridge builder and does most of the work himself—all the work that requires skill in framing, joining, preparing the timber and work of that character. Comparatively little additional labor is needed on these small bridges. Other labor is only employed to do filling in, and the coarse, unskilled work. The bridge builder is paid at the rate of \$3.50 per day, boards himself and travels great distances to reach his place of work at his own cost. One of the cases cited in the pamphlet is where the bridge builder himself received \$133, and other labor \$69.82. Another, where he received \$24.50 and other labor \$14.62. Another, where he was paid \$241.50 and other labor \$312.27. Two or three other small bridges are mentioned of a similar character, but the reasons above given fully account for these. In some cases the bridge builder scarcely requires any other labor than his own. The pamphleteer, however, is compelled in all these cases to go back as far as 1891, thus practically admitting that they have no charges to make even of this character in respect of the years 1892 and 1893. It would be absurd to employ more labor than was needed, and \$3.50 per day for a skilled master workman is only the amount allowed by the Dominion Government to Messrs. A. F. Wood and E. F. Clarke, M.P.P.'s for hotel expenses, over and above their \$10 per diem and their railway fare.

### A Policy of "Oppression and Stagnation!"

Another charge is as follows: "In respect to those Districts, that is Algoma and Nipissing, the policy of the Government has been one of oppression and stagnation. Hundreds of settlers who went into Algoma in years past have been driven out and forced to seek homes elsewhere, because of the illiberal, greedy and blundering policy of the Government." (See page 23.)

**The answer:** It may safely be said that the policy of the Government towards the regions in question has been broad and liberal, and as a matter of fact there are no parts of the Dominion of Canada which have made greater advances in population or more solid progress than the District of Algoma and the Free Grant territory generally. The answer to the charge can best be given by quoting the figures of the census of 1871, 1881 and 1891:

	1871.	1881.	1891.	Increase.
Algoma District .....	7,018	24,014	41,856	34,838
Nipissing .....	1,791	2,090	13,168	11,372
Muskoka.....	1,786	14,391	17,651	15,865
Parry Sound.....	5,133	12,813	19,167	14,034
<b>Totals.....</b>	<b>15,728</b>	<b>53,308</b>	<b>91,837</b>	<b>76,109</b>