

The paper on "The Transit" was then read by J. McAree, the writer.

Moved by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Ogilvie: That the President and Messrs. Proudfoot, Abrey, McAree and the mover be a Committee to urge on the Ontario Government the desirability of carrying out, in connection with the Surveys Branch of the Crown Lands Department, a system of explanatory surveys in the new territory. Carried.

Mr. Stewart: My object in moving this is to bring the matter before you. I think it would be well for the Government to have a permanent staff of surveyors for this purpose. There are large tracts of land in Ontario which we know nothing about, especially timber lands, and it would be much to the advantage of the Government to know what is on these lands before they sell the limits. Very often the timber men have the lands surveyed and know all about them when the Government do not know what is on the lands. My idea is that there might be a Mining Engineer along with the surveying party and they could make rough traverses and be able to report where the good timber and farm lands are also.

Mr. Abrey: I suppose that is a matter which the Geological Department should take up, they might be combined with the Surveyors' Department. If surveyors had been sent out with the mining engineers it would have been a good idea, and could have been done at a very small expense.

Mr. Stewart: I think it would be greatly in the interests of the Province, and if the Commissioner of Crown Lands would consider it and adopt it, he would be able to know what valuable timber there is in the Province. I do not think there should be any conflict with the Geological Survey. This is just a supplement. We have just lately acquired a very large territory, and we know very little about it. The Province would only be consulting her own interests in appointing such a survey party.

Mr. Gibson. I think it is a good suggestion both in the interests of the Province and of the surveyors. It is well known that large timber men make it their business to find out about these pineries and the Government know nothing about it. Those large timber men employ a large staff.

Chairman: With regard to the matter I may say that I have explored, to some extent, the land to the north of the Ottawa River, and I think something like this suggestion is desirable. An exploration party is sent out to survey, but they have no time to give the country that examination which is necessary. They might be passing over very rich minerals and know nothing about it. There should be some one with the party who has a knowledge of mining industries. I think the suggestion is in the right direction. It certainly could do no harm to have the matter talked over with the Government.

The Committee on Tariff then reported.