

AREA PLACED UNDER LICENSE.

The territory placed under license at the sale consisted of the townships of Mowat, Blair, McConkey, Hardy, Patterson, Mills, Sinclair, Bethune, Proudfoot, Gurd, Machar, Strong, Joly, Laurier, Pringle, Lount, Nipissing and Himsworth, and covered an area of 1,379 square miles. These townships were placed under license simply because large numbers of settlers were going in upon the lands, and the timber would have been destroyed by fire and otherwise; the only way to prevent such a waste of the natural resources of the country, and to secure the timber for revenue purposes, was to place the territory under license, as before stated. And as it was necessary to place these few townships under license for the reasons given above, it would have been inexcusable negligence on the part of the Government not to take advantage of the favorable condition of the market existing at the time the sale was made.

PROCEEDS OF THE SALE.

The prices obtained at the sale were beyond precedent. The total bonus paid was \$733,675.25, or an average bonus per square mile of \$532, and this without taking into account the ground rent of \$2 per square mile, which of itself produces an annual revenue of \$2,700, and without taking into account, either, the Government dues of 75 cents per thousand feet board measure, and \$3.00 per thousand feet cubic measure, leviable upon the timber when cut. The proceeds of this sale, as compared with former sales of timber limits, are most satisfactory, and it is gratifying to know that the entire amount bid as bonus has been promptly paid in according to the terms of sale.

ONLY THE RIGHT TO CUT THE TIMBER SOLD.

It is to be observed that, as has been previously stated, what was sold was only the right to cut the pine timber upon the territory, and that the timber when cut will be subject to the Government charges mentioned above. In this way a large sum will be paid into the revenue annually as a result of the sale. No right or title whatever in the land was conveyed to the purchasers at the sale, and the licenses issued to them are strictly under the control of the Legislature and the Department.

AN OPPORTUNE TIME.

The time selected for the sale was extremely opportune; parties engaged in lumbering had just closed a successful season's business, and having the means were prepared to invest in limits. As a consequence, the attendance was large and the bidding spirited.