

In March, 1903, we sold 4903 square miles, out of which 2322 square miles, had previously been offered for sale by our opponents.

In June, 1901, we sold 4634 square miles, out of which number 2,000 square miles had already been offered for sale.

In June 1902, we sold 4634 sq. miles, and out of this number 532 had been offered previously for sale by our opponents.

So that, out of a total of 14,486 sq. miles, which we have sold, it is found that 6,938 sq. miles had already been offered for sale under the previous administration. If, therefore, they did not sell these lands it was not because they did not desire to do so, but because they could not find purchasers for them. And their policy was so far from being a progressive one, that out of the 6,938 sq. miles it was found that 4,245, which had already been under license, had been abandoned. So that we have profited by that which they had given up. We have continued their policy, it is true, but under improved methods, which have resulted in profit both to the Province and to the settlers, which is contrary to their results. There still remain 691 sq. miles of timber limits which were offered by our predecessors, but not sold. So that really only 7,397 miles of limits were sold by us which had not been previously offered for sale by our opponents.

I have already said that that which is termed by our critics as the "Alienation" of our public lands, is in reality only leasing, a privilege, temporary and revocable. I have said also, that even if this were actually an alienation of our public lands, we would be responsible only for a share of the transaction, as our policy was the same in this respect as that of our predecessors; with this distinction, that by the employment of improved methods we have obtained better results.

It is a good policy, as we have just seen, to place the limits under license and oblige the holders to contribute