

granted to, and is now either owned by, or has passed at a huge profit through the hands of the members of the gang. Very few men have an adequate idea of the extent of 1,586 square miles. But a trip on foot round a quadrangle a mile wide, stretching from Montreal to Winnipeg would painfully impress upon them that it was a very vast area indeed, enough on which to found a few families of territorial grandees, such as the constitution of Canada never contemplated and such as the people of Canada will never tolerate.

Still the hardest part of Mr. Ames' task remained behind. It was fairly obvious that these great areas could not have been secured by one group of speculators without a departure from the ordinary methods of full advertisement and free competition by sealed tender. Some modification of the system in vogue, and applied to other timber men, there must have been, but to unearth what it actually was remained for Mr. Ames to accomplish.

The difficulties thrown in the way of Mr. Ames by the Department, by the Minister of the Interior, by the government and its majority in the House, form a unique chapter in Parliamentary history. Some time in December last he wrote the Department of the Interior to be allowed to inspect the original documents in certain timber applications. Mr. Oliver replied on the 6th of December that he had better move for a return in the House, which would relieve the department of responsibility. Mr. Ames naturally thought this a formality, and on the 13th of January he moved for a return of the original documents in those applications. To his surprise the whole government side of the House attacked his motion with horse, foot and artillery. An amendment was moved deliberately substituting "copies" for "original documents." The prime minister argued that a member must show sufficient reason for having original documents brought down. Some argued that applications for timber were state secrets, as in this case they certainly were. Mr. Oliver remarked that "the production of original documents would absolutely prevent the proper