

sustained by detailed demonstrative definite evidence in 1852, or even when again submitted, and its applicability and advantages demonstrated in the 10th clause of my evidence before a committee of the Legislature in 1855, on the management of the public lands, had it been then adopted, not only would the above amount have been saved to the provinces, but also necessarily a nearly similar amount in the other Crown timber agencies, whose timber transactions are, taken together, nearly as great as those of my late agency, but also, in addition thereto, the dues that would have accrued on timber and saw logs cut during the previous 15 years on lots sold between 1852 and 1866, amounting with this addition in all to over \$3,000,000. Besides which, there is the large amount which would accrue had the principle been established on timber that must continue in future to be cut on the part of the lands more lately purchased, especially which would cover any reduction in the price of the lands sold.

Loss by its
not being
adopted.

I am led to express myself so fully and decidedly here, because, as my 36 years' experience has necessarily made me thoroughly acquainted with the matter, I feel it to be my duty to vindicate to the utmost the action taken last spring by the Government of Quebec and the Legislature in passing the enactments of 45 Vict. c. 10. It may be thought that the above estimate of the amount that would have accrued had the sale of Crown lands, subject to payment of the usual dues on timber cut on them, been established 20 or 30 years ago, as it embraces duties on all kinds of timber besides pine, would give an exaggerated view of the profit to the revenue to be expected from the enactments of last spring, which reserves only the pine. But it will be found, on computing dues in the quantities of squared pine timber and pine saw logs given in the annual return of timber from Crown lands in the Departmental Report for 1881, by the increased rates established by Order in Council of 28th November 1880, as since modified, that the dues on pine timber and pine saw logs alone, at the new rates, will amount to several thousand dollars more than the total of dues that accrued on timber and saw logs of all kinds for that season at the previous rates. Notwithstanding a slight decrease on the quantity of pine in some parts of the province, cut from Crown lands, together with a great increase in the proportion of spruce saw logs made, the quantity of pine saw logs and squared pine timber when reduced to a common measure, has been on the whole increasing, though at an uneven rate. Thus, when the number of pieces of squared pine cut in the province as returned for 1881 is cast into saw logs by computing that the tree from which each piece was made would have yielded three saw logs (as the finer trees only are used for making squared timber), and the number so obtained is added to the number of pine saw logs returned for that year, the sum will be found to be over 5 per cent. greater than the yearly average of pine timber and saw logs, from Crown lands deduced from the totals of them as recorded for 15 years past, computed in the same manner.

Increase of
pine cut—
continued.

As the yield of pine continues to increase, though in a fluctuating manner, it will be many years before the revenue from the pine reserved by the enactment of last spring permanently declines; for as, even when the yield of pine diminishes through scarcity of it, the rate of dues on it may justly be augmented on account of its then necessarily increased value. It is to be observed in favour of the reservation that it is notorious that very many lots of Crown lands, whether subject to the conditions of actual settlement or not, are purchased simply for the purpose of lumbering upon them. Of course the very best timbered lots are selected, where the duties on the timber (the payment of which is in this way evaded) may or rather would, if paid, amount to from four to 12 times the price of the lot.

Nearly all this is lost to the province that seldom secures an actual settler in return; for such pine land is generally unfit for settlement and is exactly of the kind which for the common good of the country should be carefully preserved from the fires of clearing and reserved, and its young timber be allowed to grow up in forest for ever.

The Act reserving the pine will put a simple self-acting stop to all such purchases to the injury of public interest and revenue in future. By analyzing the return of ordinary dues on timber cut on Crown lands, in 1881 it will be found that three quarters of the amount is derived from white and red pine timber and pine saw logs, and the remaining quarter from all other kinds of timber and saw logs, and minor descriptions of wood goods of all kinds. In the foregoing table it is to be observed that square timber and saw logs only are included, and all other wood goods are omitted as unimportant for the object of the foregoing brief table. The dues accrued from them are, however, included, of course, in the following equally brief exhibit of the revenue accrued from Crown timber dues in the upper Ottawa territories of Quebec and Ontario respectively from 1826 to 1881 inclusively, being from the remotest period of which there are any records in the Crown Timber Office, Ottawa.

Reservation
of pine will
prevent
purchase of
lots under
pretence of
settlement
but only for
the pine.