

pened under that policy? Not a single acre has been given away. It has been leased at a certain price which Parliament has sanctioned. The result is that between two and three millions of acres are to-day under grazing leases, that hundreds of thousands of head of valuable stock, a large portion of which was brought from the United States because of the greater excellence of our grazing areas, are now on our lands. What else has happened? A large grazing business is developed which materially adds to the wealth of the country and also to the earnings of our railways. What else has been done? Why, this gentlemen. A contract for three years has been lately entered into to furnish the Mounted Police and Indians in the Northwest with the beef that they eat and with which we have to supply them. The difference in the two contracts, that is the one now about to expire and the other which comes into operation soon and which will extend over three years amounts to \$121,000, so that on this article of beef alone the people of Canada, consequent upon the stocking of the Northwest with these cattle, have saved \$121,000 on a three year's contract, and the Government has received into the treasury of the country more than \$100,000 from the rental of these areas. But you say, you thereby close up the land and prevent it from being settled. Not at all. On any of those grazing lands, the lease of which lands runs for 21 years, any settler can go, take up a homestead of 160 acres free, and the moment he takes it up it comes out from under the operation of the lease; it is his own just the same as any land in the great Northwest. So we are not open to the charge of keeping the land away from the hand and toil of the settler. (Applause).

#### THE COLONIZATION COMPANIES.

Of the third point, the colonization companies, you have heard and you hear of them every day. You are constantly being told of the terrible corruption in connection with the companies. These companies undertook their operations on conditions laid down by Parliament, under statute enacted by Parliament, and it was open to any person to take advantage of these conditions. These colonization companies went in and bought their land and settled up their tracts, so far as they are settled, and what has happened? We have got into the treasury of the Dominion as the result no less than \$857,455, while according to the sworn returns of the auditor \$368,000 over and above this sum was expended by the companies themselves in bringing in settlers to their tracts. Not one acre of the colonization areas has been given away, and they have been sold only under the provisions of the Acts of Parliament in relation to them. (Applause).

#### THE TIMBER LIMITS POLICY.

You have all heard of the timber limits. They say that these timber limits have been thrown around on this side and on the other, that people have been corrupted by them, and that even members of Parliament have been bought with them. Let me give you the truth with reference to these timber limits. In the first place no man can put his finger on one single case where a timber limit has been given away or disposed of in any other manner than according to the enactments of Parliament and the regulations based upon these enactments, and which are open to the inspection of the whole country, and which may be found by anyone desiring the information. What must you do to get a timber limit? Do not think these timber limits are like those in this country or in Quebec or Ontario or British Columbia, for the limits in the Northwest mean something very different to these. There they are little sparse clumps of timber, you would scarcely call them trees here, which are scattered along the banks of the rivers and bluffs, and which are not suitable for any kind of fine work, but which are used chiefly for making settlers' houses and fences and other things necessary for settlers' use. If any of you wish to work a timber limit you must first apply to the Department to see what the regulations are. You there get a copy which tells you what to do. You have first to find in what section of the country you desire to work, then application must be made for it to the Department, then it is surveyed and you pay for its survey, then you pay in advance \$5 per square mile as rental for the year. You must then erect a mill upon it which must have a cutting capacity of 10,000 feet of lumber a day, which mill must run for six months per year, and every year you must pay rental. In addition to all this, upon every bit of timber cut, you must pay a royalty of 5 per cent. into the Dominion treasury. If you and another apply for the same limit, what happens? It is then put up to tender and the one who pays the highest bonus gets it. But, since 1884, all timber limits have been disposed of by public advertisement and by public sale, so that the man who pays the most gets it. What is the result? One is that the settlers who before were not able to get lumber, save from a distance, have now the mills close at hand and they get the timber cheaper, and in addition to that comfort there has been paid into the Dominion treasury over \$600,000 as the income of these timber limits, and, as I said before, not one single instance can be shown where these limits have been disposed of in any other way than according to the strict letter of the law and the regulations which have been laid down. So much, then, with reference to this timber limit business. In the light of the above facts, and I challenge their contradiction, what must be thought of the reckless dishonesty of those who make such unfounded charges, and seek to gain a verdict against the Government on the strength of an indictment whose falsity is equalled only by the shameless boldness with which it is made.