

vague charges, is conclusive evidence that this branch of the public service has been honestly and well administered.

When the policy of the Dominion with regard to the disputed territory is considered, and when it is remembered that it is only since 1873 that any expenditures were made at all upon Colonization Roads in the Municipalities which now constitute Western Algoma, the expenditure of \$315,094.61 under this head in the District since the Mowat Government took office shows that it has received a very favorable proportion of the outlay in this respect. In the future, as the outlying districts are opened up to settlement, of course these expenditures are sure to become larger, and as an evidence that the Government is bound to prosecute a progressive policy in respect of Colonization Roads it may be mentioned that the handsome sum of \$34,500 has been appropriated for this purpose during the present year in Algoma.

#### THE TIMBER POLICY.

Another method which Conservatives adopt at election times with a view of making political capital is that of proposing that the timber should go to the settler with the land. They know full well that it is now the universal practice of Governments which have to deal with timber extensively to reserve it for the benefit of the crown, and the Conservative Government at Ottawa has not departed from that line. This being the case surely the best that can be done in the interests of the settlers is to realize the highest possible price in bonuses for timber berths in order that there may be the more to distribute among the people in useful ways, such as constructing for them colonization roads, helping to maintain their schools and in fostering agriculture, etc. A comparison of the Ontario and Dominion policies of dealing with timber berths will show whether the Liberal or Tory method is the better. As you know, the policy of the Mowat Government is to sell the right to cut to the highest bidder at public auction. That of the Ottawa Government has been to make secret sales of large berths to political favorites and hangers-on. Since 1872 the former Government has disposed of 2,907 square miles of timber and has realized the large sum of \$1,160,000, or \$400 per square mile. For the same area the Dominion Government has only obtained \$14,535 or \$5 per square mile. In one case the timber wealth of the country has been devoted to the work of carrying on the government and for the advantage of the whole people. In the other it has been going into the pockets of speculators and "boodlers." In view of these facts the Conservatives had better show their ability to deal properly with the timber interests that are already intrusted to them before, with the hope of winning supporters, they make suggestions with respect