

What will the electors say of men WHO DISPOSED OF 29,322 SQUARE MILES OF TIMBER WHILE IN OFFICE, at an average of \$4.13 per square mile?

What will the electors say of men who disposed of 23,000 square miles of timber WITHOUT GETTING ANY COMPENSATION for the treasury?

What will the electors say of men WHO DIVIDED AMONG THEMSELVES WHEN IN POWER 10,326 SQUARE MILES OF TIMBER IN ONE YEAR, WITHOUT PAYING A CENT FOR IT?

What will the electors say of the Liberal Government, WHICH HAS NEVER SOLD A MILE OF TIMBER SINCE THEY CAME INTO POWER EXCEPT AT PUBLIC COMPETITION AND TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER?

What estimate will the people of Canada place upon the bona fides of the Conservative criticism of the Liberal Administration of timber lands, in face of the Conservative record, as disclosed above?

CONTINUED OLD SYSTEM

The system of selling timber limits, which has provided the subject for Conservative condemnation, WAS INAUGURATED BY THE CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT IN 1889. Previous to that time there was no competition, no bonus, simply a small rental per mile, and a royalty. The non-enforcement of even these easy terms led to the great abuses mentioned, which caused a dissipation of the timber resources without any corresponding advantage to the treasury.

In response to the Liberal attacks in the House, the Conservatives in 1889 inaugurated a competition system, under which it was not the practice for the Government to offer timber lands for sale unless some application was made for them. When any person wished to have a timber limit put up for sale, he made application to the timber and mines branch; then the officers of that branch issued the notices and advertisements, after seeing whether the timber was available and open to be sold by the Government. Tenders were advertised for, and after the tenders were received, they were opened on the day fixed, and the limit was given to the highest bidder.