

PRESS FOR
LOCAL OPTIONATION WILL
BE SOUGHT AFTERCommittee Formed to
in Vigorous Cam-
paign.

On Wednesday's Daily).
ing was held in the city hall
for the purpose of organ-
aggressive work in con-
a local option campaign in
There was a good attend-
before the meeting adjourned
resolution was carried
ly, settling forth the objects
the campaign has been in-

view of the need and im-
of a local option law in Brit-
this meeting the committee
etoria, resolve before and now
Local Option, committee,
to add to its number, which
charge of the whole ques-

on organizing and carrying
of campaign throughout the
burbs, and for obtaining sig-
natures to a petition to the
asking for the passing of
tion law;

to conduct a campaign
the city, giving effect to
option law which has been
to carry on the work a re-
ve committee was formed
of Rev. Herman Carson, Dr.
Hall, A. J. Plene and the fol-

—Mayor Hall, L. A. Campbell,
Stie, W. H. Parsons, W. J.
noble, W. Beckwith, Rev. S.
son.

—Ald. Glason, Mrs. Spofford,
va, E. B. Jones, A. J. Plene,
Dr. E. H. Hall, R. W. Clarke,
eman, A. J. Morley and J. T.

—W. J. Shoret, D. McLean,
intosh, J. Renfree, D. Sprink-

is committee will all the task-
ing for the campaign this
the conduct of it along the
ated in the resolution.
J. Thompson proposed that
and after a short address
W. J. Short, formerly of To-
went fully into the subject
link habit, giving statistics
of industrial firms in the
to the use of intoxicants was
to the individual and to the
y and that the only safety
assistance. He admitted
was useless to expect to make
by legislation. A work of
must be carried on and the
ought to realize the need of
Great companies now
the need of its employees be-
and ninety per cent of the
of the United States discrim-
employees who drank
alcohol showed that crime was
a large extent, by strong
about 86 per cent of those
in the Dominion could trace
back to drink.

into the history of the
Ontario for prohibitory legisla-
tionally the local option sys-
tem introduced and as a re-
sult the municipalities were "dry" ones,
and that a slight setback had
been given by the decision of the
government to insist upon a
vote before the law could
be enforced. However few munici-
ad gone back on its decision
enjoying immunity from
its evils.

er's address was listened to
attention and he was fre-
quently applauded.

E. Holling gave an account
campaign in Manitoba where
about twenty-nine municipi-
under local option. In addition
about 100 would vote on it in
and a vigorous fight was be-
in its support. Coming to
the city of British Columbia he
said that the first thing was
in the legislature the right to
option. He hoped to see the
introduce an act which
would give the municipalities
themselves whether they should
prohibit or not.

afford, on behalf of the W. C.
ferred the aid of the entire
of British Columbia. The
case in hand. She pointed
at the W. C. T. U. was now
sided, having a branch in
every city in the province.
afford made a strong appeal
the liquor traffic, giving fig-
the number of bars in the
centres, is compared with
The W. C. T. U. was pre-
take its full share in the cam-
paign, who expressed himself
accord with the movement,
duced the resolution given
which was carried unanimously.

EALAND REFUSES
ANY MORE SUBSIDY

he Wanted to Place An-
er Steamer on Vic-
toria Run.

on, New Zealand Sept. 29.—
they have failed to obtain a
a more complete steamship
from New Zealand to Van-
ancouver. The Government
Union Steamship Company.
Alley asked for £5,000 to run
steamer on the route. New
Zealand is not prepared to grant it.
Alley was ready to agree.

D. Whittier left on the Princess
Monday for a visit to friends in

COMPREHENSIVE SPEECH
BY CLIFFORD SIFTONLiberal Candidate in Brandon Replies to Slanderers
and Outlines Great Policies of Sir Wilfrid
Laurier and His Ministers

Brandon, Man., Sept. 23.—The nom-
ination of Clifford Sifton last night to
contest this constituency at the forth-
coming Dominion election, was the occa-
sion of a comprehensive speech by
that statesman. He outlined in suc-
cinct form the policy carried out by the
Liberal government for the people of
Canada, and dealt with many of the
issues brought forward during the pre-
sent campaign.

Deafening cheers greeted Mr. Sifton
when he rose to speak, many rising
and waving their hats, and it was sev-
eral minutes before the rounds of ap-
plause subsided sufficient for him to
open his speech; but when the out-
burst of enthusiasm concluded in a
"vigor" he proceeded with the delivery
of one of those brilliant, clean cut, log-
ical and convincing addresses which
have made him famous and brought
him out victorious in many a political
battle and keen measure before the
people. He opened with a brief expression
of his appreciation of the reception ac-
corded him, speaking as follows:

"I need not say that I am very
deeply touched by the methods in which
the nomination of this constituency has
been tendered to me this evening.
There have been other conventions
where I have been presented with the
nomination of this constituency when
I came before you as a minister of the
crown and it might be to some extent
have been regarded as a matter of
course that I should be nominated.
But, as you all know, shortly after the
last general election a circumstance
arose which caused me to feel that it
was my duty to myself and to the prin-
ciples which I had enunciated before
the people of this country, that I
should retire from the federal govern-
ment and enter upon a contest for some
change in the nature of a measure,
a very important measure, before the
House of Commons in regard to a con-
stitution for the provinces in the west.
You are all perfectly familiar with the
circumstances of that case and I need
not go into it at the present time.
Suffice it to say, I thought then it
was my duty to adopt the course which
I adopted. I have had no reason since
to change my mind, and am satisfied
that I did what I was bound to do in
the interests of the political principles
which I believe to be sound and which
I am satisfied that in doing that I did
not merit 'your disapproval.'

The Highest Compliment of His Life.
"However, having assumed the pos-
sion of a private member of the House
of Commons and not residing amongst
you, there was no opportunity for me,
when this general election approached,
that I should have any claim whatever
upon your suffrage. Therefore, a year
ago I intimated to a number of the
leaders of the Liberal party in this
constituency that I would be glad if they
should select another candidate. Since
then I have received so many pressing
commitments of the Liberal party and
supporters in this constituency that I
should again accept nomination and
have received so many kind assurances
of the desire of my friends of the
Liberal party to have me represent this
country that I should remain in public
life, that I made up my mind to remain
if it was the unanimous desire of the
Liberal party. Under these circum-
stances, having no claim whatever upon
your suffrage, by reason of the fact that
I am no longer a resident among you, the
nomination to-day is perhaps the high-
est compliment I have ever received in
my life." (Cheers.)

"I may say one or two words of a
personal character before saying any-
thing about public questions. It is now
about twenty years since I was first
nominated for the representation of a
portion of the present riding of Brandon.
Many men who were my strong
supporters in my first election have
since died. I have seen many of them
some of them in convention to-night.
Some of them have come to the city
to-day for the purpose of taking me
by the hand and assuring me of their con-
tinued support. But Mr. Chairman, the
new generation has arisen since that
time, an aggregation of strong young
men, who did not take part in politics
in my first election, and these men
who must win this election if it is to
be at all. I do not underrate my old-time
supporters, but there have been tremen-
dous changes since then, and if we had
them all here they would be but a
small proportion of the electorate. It
is your duty to leave no stone unturned.
Do not let anybody tell you that
you are not going to have a contest.
Don't let anyone persuade you that
we are going to have a walk-over, or that
you can afford to stay away, or let
your neighbors stay away. We should
have a hard, determined fight. Every
effort will be made to wrest this
constituency from the Liberal party.

The Tariff.
"You will, I have no doubt, expect
me in accepting nomination at your
hands, to give some sort of review of
the public affairs of this country. I
will express to you the policy which
in my judgment, am justified in
appearance before you as a candidate
supporting the policy of Sir Wilfrid
Laurier, why I think the Liberal party
deserve well of the people of this
country. The first question I would take
up is that of our old friend, the tariff. Well,
I am not going to discuss that question
this evening, because there have not
been very substantial changes made
since the former election. I may say a
word or two of the past action of the
government and of the Conservative
party. The tariff was revised in 1897
so that there should be, as far as pos-
sible, a reduction on the finished article;
secondly upon the raw material,
and thirdly the outstanding feature of
the tariff was the British preference
to which my friend, Mr. Fraser, has
already made reference. There was a

are much better able to bear the debt.

The Grain Act.
"The statement has been made
sometimes that there is no real differ-
ence between the parties, no general
line of cleavage. But still there are
differences of principles, some ways of
a very pronounced character. The gen-
eral course of the legislation of the
Liberal government has been that it
has looked to the benefit of the people
of the country. Take, for instance,
the legislation respecting affairs in
Manitoba. Some years ago the farm-
ers had a grievance in regard to the
shipment of grain. They could not get
consideration of any kind. The grain
dealer could buy for practically what
he liked, because they, the farmers,
could not ship themselves. I had the
honor of recommending my colleagues
to take the subject up, and the result
was that the grain act was passed and
the farmers were given the power of
shipping their own grain. (Cheers.) Every
one of you gentlemen know the history
of this question; but I appeal to you
to consider that indications of that
kind when you have a substantial
grievance the Liberal party are not
afraid to pass the necessary legislation
against the interests of banks, the cor-
porations, and all the influences which
are brought to bear. (Cheers.) That
is one small item of legislation which
makes more difference to the farmers
of Brandon than all the tariff changes.
Influences are constantly brought to
bear on parliament to modify that leg-
islation and lessen to some extent the
privileges given to the farmers, but no
change will be made.

Legislation in the Interests of Labor.
"Take, again, the legislation in the
interests of labor. There are a great
many laboring men in Canada who
is the duty of the Liberal party to
promote legislation in their interests
whenever it can be done. I venture to
say if you will read the records of the
government of the last few years you
will find the amount of honest work done
on that subject. In 1885 the Conserva-
tive government issued a commission
which cost \$50,000. It reported some
three years later and an act was passed
in 1891 appointing a department. In
1896 the government went out of office,
having never taken a step to put their
legislation into effect. An act was passed
by the present government, the de-
partment of labor organized and an
able and competent man placed in
charge. Since that time this depart-
ment has been promoting the interests
of the laboring man in Canada. Let
me tell you some of the things it has
done. They found in cities throughout
Canada that the sweating system was
in force. They passed a law which
made it illegal for the government
and he would let the contract out to
women, some of whom were getting
only two and one-half cents an hour.
The result was that the government passed
legislation abolishing the sweating sys-
tem, and passed a fair wage clause
and saw that these women were pro-
perly paid. (Cheers.)

"On government contracts previously
the men had no protection. Some-
times reports were spread that plenty
of work was to be had at another point,
men would travel and find nothing
and did not work enough for half of them,
and the results was that contractors
could get them at their own price. The
government provided a fair wage
clause which is inserted in every con-
tract and every contractor is obliged to
pay the price. The government of
Manitoba had followed that precedent
before, but there was no legislation be-
fore this was introduced by Sir Wil-
frid Laurier. The government also
passed legislation securing proper san-
itary conditions, medical care and hos-
pital accommodation so that a contract
must now provide for all these things.
Restriction of Asiatic Immigration.
"Again, take the question of Asiatic
immigration and the legislation passed
by the government dealing with that.
After a full elucidation of that ques-
tion, the government imposed a head
tax of \$500 upon Chinese immigrants,
and the Japanese it was impossible to
do in that way, as Great Britain had
contracted an alliance with Japan. When
the question had become acute the ser-
vice of the British ambassador in Japan
were brought into requisition
any by an arrangement made between
the governments of Great Britain and
Japan, Japanese immigration was stop-
ped, or rather regulated and the peo-
ple of Canada have no present fear
of any difficulty upon that score. So, upon
all these lines the Liberal government
has followed the consistent and proper
course for a Liberal government to follow.

The Lumber Act and the Strike.
"Now, a word or two in regard to
strike legislation. One of the prin-
ciple difficulties, especially complained
of against the Liberal government, was
that they had no means of bringing about a
proper investigation of their differences.
This resulted in the government taking
up the subject on the Lumber Act.
By this act the government was em-
powered to investigate all the griev-
ances of the men. The act was ap-
proved by a trades and labor congress
held last year in Winnipeg, and 21
important industrial disputes through-
out Canada have been settled in ac-
cordance with that act. The first fail-
ure in connection with it is the dis-
agreement between the present time be-
tween the C. P. R. and its employees.
Men have said to me that the act is
a failure, and I notice from the papers
that speakers at the trades and labor
congress in session at Halifax have
been attacking the Lumber Act. Well,
gentlemen, no one has ever thought
that the Lumber Act was perfect.
What I desire to say is that the act
is a success. It has determined recog-
nition of organized labor that was ever
put upon the statute book of Canada.
The government did not pass that act
because it was a failure. It was perfect.
They passed it because it was the best
their best-witted men were able to sug-
gest to apply to industrial disputes.
We knew perfectly well that difficult-
ies would arise in connection with that
act. We knew that it might have to
be amended, or, perhaps, repealed. But
there is any sense in the idea that
because you have got an act that is
not perfect, you should not improve
your position by attacking men who are
friendly to you and who wish to serve
your cause. I have no hesitation in
saying that the act is the best that the
government of the Liberal party have
such legislation upon the statute books
as will tend to give to laboring men

competence which was sufficient to
justify turning out the government.
Well, it turned out that the provision-
ing of the Arctic amounted per man
per day to \$1.02. Under the Conserva-
tives in 1884 Mr. McLeod sent out
the Neptune at a cost per man per day
of \$1.19, and under Mr. Foster, the
apostle of purity and economy, in 1885,
when prices of supplies were from
twenty to twenty-five per cent
cheaper, a ship was sent out at a cost
per man per day of \$1.14. I think
these examples show that the ship fitted
by the Liberal government was
fitted much more cheaply than boats
sent out by men who have flooded the
Dominion with literature endeavoring
to make scandal of the provisioning
of the Arctic.

The Timber Berths' Charges.
"Lately very violent attacks have
been made upon my administration of
the department of the interior in re-
gard to the disposition of timber berths
that we sold too much timber; that the
berths were not sold in the proper way;
and also that there was fraud in con-
nection with the timber subject. I will
in the first place I desire to say that
every timber limit sold during my ad-
ministration was sold in precisely the
same manner and under precisely the
same regulations so far as sale was
concerned, as were in force when my
esteemed friend Mr. Daly was minister
of the interior. Nothing was changed
in any respect whatsoever. Therefore
if any fault was to be found, the fault
rested with themselves.
"But let me say that some years
previously as the result of arguments
brought forward by the Liberals in op-
position when the whole question of
timber administration came up in the
House of Commons, regulations had
been passed which were regarded as
perfectly satisfactory to both parties.
But in my more attentive study of
these regulations than in former
times. The Conservatives asked for
papers and they got papers. I will take
some two or three cases in regard to
which fraud was alleged to have taken
place. There was a case of a timber
limit which had been tendered upon by
Mr. Fraser, a lawyer of Ottawa. When
examined it was found that the amount
of the tender had been written at a
different time and in different writing
than the body of the tender.

Conservative newspapers at once
jumped to the conclusion of fraud.
They said that the tender had been
filled in by the department after the
other tenders had been opened. There
was no evidence in the world for such
a charge. It was an emanation of their
imagination. The charge was founded
wholly on the idea that the amount of
the tender was not written in at the
same time as the body of the tender
was written in.
"Any business man could have told
them that was quite a common thing
in business, for the simple reason that
he does not want anyone to know what
he is going to tender. The proper
course would be to bring up the matter
and let it be investigated before the public
accounts committee of the House of
Commons. For days and weeks before
the matter was brought up in the
House, the person who made the tender
was making all kinds of insinua-
tions against Mr. Fraser. They said
Mr. Fraser would be called before the
public accounts committee and
forced to tell what he had done. That
is strange to say, when Mr. Fraser did
appear before the public accounts com-
mittee, Mr. Ames and his friends told
him they did not want him. Well, if
other members of the committee said
this was absurd and called up Mr. Fraser.
Mr. Fraser said there was nothing at
all in the story. He took the Bible in
his hand and swore to tell the truth,
the whole truth and nothing but the
truth, and standing there with the go-
vernment do? At the very session in
which the report was presented an act
was brought in to place the civil ser-
vice upon a non-partisan basis. No
political favoritism whatever was to be
permitted and it was to be impossible
for incompetent men to be appointed.
Furthermore, we established a control
by two independent commissioners,
over whom the government had no
authority. These two commissioners
were appointed a short time ago. One
was Adam Shortt, of Queen's college,
Kingston, and another was a Mr. Le-
gault, with whom the Conservatives
find no fault. I wish to point out
that the government in this case has
completely met the complaint by ins-
tution of a service under the control of
a non-partisan commission.

The "Arctic" Charges.
"Some attacks have been made upon
the marine department. This country
was flooded with pamphlets with re-
gard to the expenditure upon a steamer
called the Arctic going to northern
waters. There were many useful ends
to be served by its voyage and
amongst other things a demonstration
of the navigability of the Hudson Bay
was in question. Violent attacks were
made by the Conservative party in re-
gard to the expenditure of the govern-
ment fitting out this steamer. The gov-
ernment was appointed for the purpose of
investigating the subject and after all
the opposition said what do you think
turned out to be the facts? The
government had been told that the ex-
penditure of the government had been
wholly without justification. It was,
they said, one more proof of in-

competence which was sufficient to
justify turning out the government.
Well, it turned out that the provision-
ing of the Arctic amounted per man
per day to \$1.02. Under the Conserva-
tives in 1884 Mr. McLeod sent out
the Neptune at a cost per man per day
of \$1.19, and under Mr. Foster, the
apostle of purity and economy, in 1885,
when prices of supplies were from
twenty to twenty-five per cent
cheaper, a ship was sent out at a cost
per man per day of \$1.14. I think
these examples show that the ship fitted
by the Liberal government was
fitted much more cheaply than boats
sent out by men who have flooded the
Dominion with literature endeavoring
to make scandal of the provisioning
of the Arctic.

The Timber Berths' Charges.
"Lately very violent attacks have
been made upon my administration of
the department of the interior in re-
gard to the disposition of timber berths
that we sold too much timber; that the
berths were not sold in the proper way;
and also that there was fraud in con-
nection with the timber subject. I will
in the first place I desire to say that
every timber limit sold during my ad-
ministration was sold in precisely the
same manner and under precisely the
same regulations so far as sale was
concerned, as were in force when my
esteemed friend Mr. Daly was minister
of the interior. Nothing was changed
in any respect whatsoever. Therefore
if any fault was to be found, the fault
rested with themselves.
"But let me say that some years
previously as the result of arguments
brought forward by the Liberals in op-
position when the whole question of
timber administration came up in the
House of Commons, regulations had
been passed which were regarded as
perfectly satisfactory to both parties.
But in my more attentive study of
these regulations than in former
times. The Conservatives asked for
papers and they got papers. I will take
some two or three cases in regard to
which fraud was alleged to have taken
place. There was a case of a timber
limit which had been tendered upon by
Mr. Fraser, a lawyer of Ottawa. When
examined it was found that the amount
of the tender had been written at a
different time and in different writing
than the body of the tender.

Conservative newspapers at once
jumped to the conclusion of fraud.
They said that the tender had been
filled in by the department after the
other tenders had been opened. There
was no evidence in the world for such
a charge. It was an emanation of their
imagination. The charge was founded
wholly on the idea that the amount of
the tender was not written in at the
same time as the body of the tender
was written in.
"Any business man could have told
them that was quite a common thing
in business, for the simple reason that
he does not want anyone to know what
he is going to tender. The proper
course would be to bring up the matter
and let it be investigated before the public
accounts committee of the House of
Commons. For days and weeks before
the matter was brought up in the
House, the person who made the tender
was making all kinds of insinua-
tions against Mr. Fraser. They said
Mr. Fraser would be called before the
public accounts committee and
forced to tell what he had done. That
is strange to say, when Mr. Fraser did
appear before the public accounts com-
mittee, Mr. Ames and his friends told
him they did not want him. Well, if
other members of the committee said
this was absurd and called up Mr. Fraser.
Mr. Fraser said there was nothing at
all in the story. He took the Bible in
his hand and swore to tell the truth,
the whole truth and nothing but the
truth, and standing there with the go-
vernment do? At the very session in
which the report was presented an act
was brought in to place the civil ser-
vice upon a non-partisan basis. No
political favoritism whatever was to be
permitted and it was to be impossible
for incompetent men to be appointed.
Furthermore, we established a control
by two independent commissioners,
over whom the government had no
authority. These two commissioners
were appointed a short time ago. One
was Adam Shortt, of Queen's college,
Kingston, and another was a Mr. Le-
gault, with whom the Conservatives
find no fault. I wish to point out
that the government in this case has
completely met the complaint by ins-
tution of a service under the control of
a non-partisan commission.

The "Arctic" Charges.
"Some attacks have been made upon
the marine department. This country
was flooded with pamphlets with re-
gard to the expenditure upon a steamer
called the Arctic going to northern
waters. There were many useful ends
to be served by its voyage and
amongst other things a demonstration
of the navigability of the Hudson Bay
was in question. Violent attacks were
made by the Conservative party in re-
gard to the expenditure of the govern-
ment fitting out this steamer. The gov-
ernment was appointed for the purpose of
investigating the subject and after all
the opposition said what do you think
turned out to be the facts? The
government had been told that the ex-
penditure of the government had been
wholly without justification. It was,
they said, one more proof of in-

competence which was sufficient to
justify turning out the government.
Well, it turned out that the provision-
ing of the Arctic amounted per man
per day to \$1.02. Under the Conserva-
tives in 1884 Mr. McLeod sent out
the Neptune at a cost per man per day
of \$1.19, and under Mr. Foster, the
apostle of purity and economy, in 1885,
when prices of supplies were from
twenty to twenty-five per cent
cheaper, a ship was sent out at a cost
per man per day of \$1.14. I think
these examples show that the ship fitted
by the Liberal government was
fitted much more cheaply than boats
sent out by men who have flooded the
Dominion with literature endeavoring
to make scandal of the provisioning
of the Arctic.

The Timber Berths' Charges.
"Lately very violent attacks have
been made upon my administration of
the department of the interior in re-
gard to the disposition of timber berths
that we sold too much timber; that the
berths were not sold in the proper way;
and also that there was fraud in con-
nection with the timber subject. I will
in the first place I desire to say that
every timber limit sold during my ad-
ministration was sold in precisely the
same manner and under precisely the
same regulations so far as sale was
concerned, as were in force when my
esteemed friend Mr. Daly was minister
of the interior. Nothing was changed
in any respect whatsoever. Therefore
if any fault was to be found, the fault
rested with themselves.
"But let me say that some years
previously as the result of arguments
brought forward by the Liberals in op-
position when the whole question of
timber administration came up in the
House of Commons, regulations had
been passed which were regarded as
perfectly satisfactory to both parties.
But in my more attentive study of
these regulations than in former
times. The Conservatives asked for
papers and they got papers. I will take
some two or three cases in regard to
which fraud was alleged to have taken
place. There was a case of a timber
limit which had been tendered upon by
Mr. Fraser, a lawyer of Ottawa. When
examined it was found that the amount
of the tender had been written at a
different time and in different writing
than the body of the tender.

Conservative newspapers at once
jumped to the conclusion of fraud.
They said that the tender had been
filled in by the department after the
other tenders had been opened. There
was no evidence in the world for such
a charge. It was an emanation of their
imagination. The charge was founded
wholly on the idea that the amount of
the tender was not written in at the
same time as the body of the tender
was written in.
"Any business man could have told
them that was quite a common thing
in business, for the simple reason that
he does not want anyone to know what
he is going to tender. The proper
course would be to bring up the matter
and let it be investigated before the public
accounts committee of the House of
Commons. For days and weeks before
the matter was brought up in the
House, the person who made the tender
was making all kinds of insinua-
tions against Mr. Fraser. They said
Mr. Fraser would be called before the
public accounts committee and
forced to tell what he had done. That
is strange to say, when Mr. Fraser did
appear before the public accounts com-
mittee, Mr. Ames and his friends told
him they did not want him. Well, if
other members of the committee said
this was absurd and called up Mr. Fraser.
Mr. Fraser said there was nothing at
all in the story. He took the Bible in
his hand and swore to tell the truth,
the whole truth and nothing but the
truth, and standing there with the go-
vernment and he got timber limits

from a Liberal government, but he
never got a limit that was not got
honestly and properly. It does not mat-
ter, however, whether the charges have
been disproved or not. You can de-
pend that they will be made to do duty
during the campaign. It is said that
we have sold too much timber. It
is said that we depleted the resources
of the country. We sold in 12 years al-
together the right to cut timber subject
to an annual rent and dues on 5,400
square miles of land. Why do you sell
that timber? For this reason, because
the people of this country had an in-
terest, one of the chief interests they
had in the supply of lumber. As far as
the supply of lumber is concerned you
cannot have a sufficient supply unless
you get improvements of the limits on
a large scale. When in later years of
my administration the population of
the western country increased very
rapidly, there were great fears that the
lumber supply would not be sufficient.
Two or three times we were in sight
of a lumber famine. We sold limits
as fast as they could be had. The supply
of lumber mills in no country can you
get lumber mills built unless you
allow timber men the opportunity to
acquire a fair-sized limit. There are
many lumbermen who own 2,000 square
miles of timber. The same general
conditions apply in Manitoba and the
western provinces, for most of the capital
invested in the lumber business has
been borrowed from the bank. Lumber-
men cannot secure the necessary cap-
ital unless they have a considerable
supply of timber at their disposal, and
absolute security for the investment
made.

Why Timber Was Sold.
"We sold that timber for the purpose
of getting an adequate supply of lum-
ber through the establishment of a
large number of mills. At the present
time there are more lumber mills in
the western provinces than is suf-
ficient to supply the present wants.
There is no harm in that to the people
of the provinces who have the lum-
ber. If we had not sold that timber
we should have had a number of cheap
mills getting out small quantities of
lumber, and in a few years you would
have had a lumber famine. You would
consequently, you would have lost in one
year through the higher prices of lum-
ber more than the amount of money we
got for those limits. Again, it was said
that we had depleted the supply. Ac-
cording to the report of the chief for-
estry inspector of Canada the western
provinces have 724,000 square miles of
timber, of which 136,000 square miles
are merchantable timber. From 1896
to 1908 about 6,400 square miles of lim-
its have been sold. Have we depleted
the supply? Well, it would just take
selling limits at the rate obtaining when
there were more than 820,000 square
miles of timber to deplete the western
supply. So, you see, there is no
immediate danger as far as you
are concerned. In addition to that,
there are 800,000 square miles upon
which the timber is constantly growing.
Now, I wish to point out that these
lands are not sold. The government
when it sells the right to cut the tim-
ber, does not sell the land. It merely
gives the person a lease to cut timber
subject first to a ground rent, secondly
to dues, and thirdly to a condition
which prevents the holding of it for
speculation, a condition by which the
government can force a man to operate
his mill.

Conservative Administration of Timber.
"The government can raise the duty.
Now, what did our friends the Con-
servatives do with timber when they
were in power? Well, they particu-
larly about the timber supply of the
country. In 1881, when there was practi-
cally no one in this country, certainly no
considerable population that required
a lumber supply, they sold 985 square
miles or more than the average dis-
position of timber sold when I was
in office. In 1882 they disposed in the
one year of 4,642 square miles. In 1883
when there was still very little study in
the west, they disposed of 10,226 square
miles or in all they sold up to 1896 no
less than 29,332 square miles of timber,
of which 22,387 were given away for
settling. There was no price paid for
the timber was absolutely given for
nothing. So I imagine, as far as a dis-
cussion of the disposition of timber is
concerned, our friends should be con-
sidered to quarrel. In the question of
the treatment of our forest land I think
I have some little claim to the consid-
eration of our northwest people. More
timber is destroyed by fire than is de-
stroyed by the axe of the lumberman.
I had the honor of establishing a sys-
tem of fire guarding that has saved
more timber than twice the amount
sold when I was in office. The amount
of instituting a little branch of the de-
partment in the shape of tree planting
affords some little satisfaction to me
also. And I am especially proud of
the fact that 1,000,000 trees have been
planted and are actually living. So far
I think we have found no reasonable
ground for criticism of our administra-
tion. But we are told that the Liberal
government has failed to carry out its
policy of land for the settler. Old
stories are retold, many of them moth-
eaten, and yet they remain the prin-
ciple planks of the Conservatives' plat-
form.

Proud of This Transaction.
"I will not discuss the question of
the Saskatchewan Valley Land Com-
pany. It has already been discussed
at great length, and if the votes of the
people of this constituency at the last
election form a criterion, that question
has been satisfactorily answered. There
is no transaction which I personally
am proud of with more satisfaction or
from which the country derives more
benefit than from the sale of land to
the Saskatchewan Valley Land Com-
pany. That tract of land up to the
time had been a barren waste and the
result was that the treasury bene-
fited by \$250,000, and where a desert
had been there sprung up a garden
and a prosperous settlement. The
transaction is a transaction of which I
am not ashamed. It is one, on the con-
trary, of which I am proud, and for
which I offer no apology. We cannot
keep on discussing things forever.
There must be a time limit.

The Robins Irrigation Scandal.
Another subject out of which it has
been sought to create a scandal is a
sale of land made by Hon. Mr. Oliver
to a company in the west. The land
was sold because it was unfit for
settlement, because it required to be
irrigated before it could be of use to
the settlers. The government made a
condition in the sale of that land that
it should be irrigated. Let those who
make the charge bring it forward at
the place most closely concerned, to

the place where the people know all
about it, I mean Medicine Hat. The
citizens of Medicine Hat have signed
a petition urging the government to
go on with the transaction and asking
it to make some arrangements to assist
them in going on with the work. Mr.
Borden last year made a tour of the
Northwest provinces during which he
discussed this deal. When he gets to
Medicine Hat does he make any refer-
ence to the deal in his speech? No,
he has no word to say about it. Does
Mr. Ames make any reference to this
deal when he gets to Medicine Hat?
No, because everybody would laugh
at him there if he were to do so. The
transaction was so much in the in-
terests of the country that there were
absolutely no two opinions about it.

The General Policy.
"Now, a few words in regard to the
general features of the policy followed
for the people carrying on the govern-
ment intelligently must have some
broad scheme. First of all we wanted
to put the tariff on a satisfactory
basis; then to provide some proper
method of regulating freight rates
when people came into contact with
the corporations. These are two main
features of the government which had
to do with the general development of
the country. The first of these is in
regard to the development of the west.
I will refer briefly to the conditions
which existed in 1886. You know that
from the Red river to the Rocky moun-
tains there were something like 550,
000 people settled, with just as many
going out as coming in. What is now
the province of Alberta was stagnant
and bankrupt. A part of British Col-
umbia was absolutely undeveloped.
I am bound to say, as