

port of the Royal Commission of Forestry of 1910. Now that report is the very authority upon which we base our allegations as to the alienation of the timber wealth of this province. It is in this very report, on page 17, we find that 12 millions of acres of the most valuable timber in this province was alienated before 1910, and that about 10,000,000 of that was grabbed in the years 1905 to 1907, immediately after the present government passed the act giving special licenses "transferable and renewable each year for 21 successive years." On page 48 the commissioners definitely state that it was this legislation which created the enormous rush for timber lands, and they give this diagram which shows what happened before the government placed the reserve on what remained. From less than one million acres in 1904, the special license area leaped to about 10 millions in 1907. Then when the horse was gone the stable door was locked. (Applause.) On the same page they tell us that "very great laxity had been allowed in the payment of rentals."

Commission's Recommendations.

Undoubtedly some recommendations of the commission were put into force, chiefly those dealing with departmental methods and fire protection. But here is without doubt the most emphatic and strongest recommendation of the 21 they made. They had made it in an interim report, and they repeat it in this. They say, on page 49, "One thing alone stands out from the near future with grim certainty—the value of stumpage in the West will soon be much higher than it is today"; therefore, they add, "Your commissioners recommend, definitely and emphatically, that the license rentals, fees and royalty shall not be fixed for any period beyond one calendar year at any time; that the present right of the government to regulate and adjust rentals, fees, royalties or other charges in timber property, shall in no way be restricted or limited," etc. This is the weightiest deliverance in the whole report, and Mr. Bowser says the government has based its legislation upon this report. Now let us see. Here is the "Timber Royalty Act" of last year, and section 18 fixes the license fees at \$100 and \$140 each according as they are east or west of the Cascade mountains. For how long? Listen. "The foregoing fees shall be the maximum fees for renewals of such special timber licenses as are affected by this act during the period from the first day of January, 1915, to the thirty-first day of December, 1954." The commission says in the strongest

terms that the interests of the province absolutely require no fees to be fixed for more than one year at a time. And the government proceeds to fix them solid for 40 years. (Loud applause.) Yet the attorney-general declares, "It was on their report we based our legislation." Listen, gentlemen. I would like to know just what a Mathers commission could find out as to why the timber-holders of this province got such a mighty concession in the face of this report. ("Hear, hear!" and applause.) Mr. Bowser speaks of the splendid revenue from timber. What is being done with it? On page 72 this royal commission on forestry most urgently recommend that the timber royalties should not be used as current revenue, but be put into a sinking fund for forest purposes. But I can find no one who has even heard of such a fund being formed for this purpose and the Public Accounts on page 21 show that timber leases, royalties and license fees all go into the ordinary funds.

Why didn't Mr. Bowser explain how so many Americans and others outside this province can hold our timber, as we have clearly shown on page 15 of "The Crisis"? ("Hear, hear!") Why did he not explain the rest of that page where we print the "return" given in the house, which said that there was only 982,520 acres alienated though this report said nearly 12,000,000 had gone five years ago? Or the fact that the Canadian Puget Sound Co. had 57,393 acres, when the government told the house it had only 4,280 acres? He says, "Not a single stick of timber covered by special license has been given away, only the right to cut." But this "right to cut," which he says is given away, can be sold for thousands of dollars by the speculator, who may live in Jericho. Will Mr. Bowser kindly explain how Alvo von Alvensleben, the Kaiser's "Governor of British Columbia," could purchase \$2,000,000 worth of timber limits in this province from the Red Cliff Lumber Co. in Duluth? (Loud applause.) This may be crown-grant timber or something other than licenses, but I should like Mr. Bowser to face some aspect of the timber question.

Evasion of Accusation.

Now, sir, let me show you the most glaring, the most amazing evasion of one of the gravest accusations we have made in the whole pamphlet. It is the last one I shall discuss. On pages 18 to 20 of "The Crisis" we have set forth in full the agreements which have handed over the property of the Ocean Falls Co. with immense