

The charges as to Patents and Cancellations.

The next question dealt with is Patents and Cancellations. The statement is as follows: "In 1892 there were issued to settlers 352 patents for Crown lands, while during the same year 396 lots, the locations of former years, were cancelled, the cancellations being more numerous than the patents issued. During 1893 there were 322 patents issued to locatees or settlers, and 356 lots, the locations of former years, were cancelled for non-performance of the settlement duties." (See page 24 of pamphlet.)

The answer:—Now what are the facts. In 1892, 840 patents were issued, 803 of these were for agricultural lands, 22 for mining lands, and there were in addition 93 mining leases. It is true 396 lots were cancelled, but a considerable proportion of them were cancelled to allow the settler to sell his improvements to a new settler, and every one of the 396 lots were immediately re-located to new settlers. In 1893 there were 894 patents and leases issued, 768 being patents for agricultural lands, 22 mining patents, and 126 mining leases. The 356 lots cancelled were all immediately re-located to settlers. This is a case in which the facts are much more eloquent than fiction.

The charges as to the cost of the Crown Lands Department.

The next charge is in connection with the cost of the Crown Lands Department. The statement is "The expenditures of the Crown Lands Department are alarming. There are 34 clerks in the various offices, drawing annually \$39,960, besides the Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner, the latter receiving a salary of \$2,800."

The answer:—The Crown Lands Department is a large revenue collecting department. It is also a large spending department. It has collected in the last two years revenue for the Province amounting to \$4,099,923, and it has expended in the same period \$516,616, or a total volume of business of \$4,616,539. Not one cent of this large sum went astray, and every dollar has to be received by the Commissioner or Assistant, and every dollar disbursed approved by the same authorities. There is no institution, financial or otherwise, conducting such an immense business over so large a territory, managed as economically and with as small a staff. Managers of large financial institutions, who receive four or five times the salary paid to the Commissioner of Crown Lands or the Assistant Commissioner have not nearly the labor or responsibility resting on the head officers of this department.

The Charges as to Crown Lands Agents.

The next subject dealt with is the Crown Lands Agents on page 25. The alleged sales made by certain agents for a period of three years are taken and compared with the salaries paid for the same periods, and a great outcry is made because the salaries exceed the sales by a few hundred dollars.

The answer:—The deceptions practiced by the Conservative manifesto under this head are of several kinds. One arises in this way: Many of the agents are agents both for the sale of Crown Lands and for the location of free grant territory. The pamphlet takes the salaries paid in full, but separates the work done under free grants and by way of sales, that is to say, it pits the salaries against, first, the free grants, and, secondly, against the sales; in effect doubling the salaries and halving the work. The fact that they occupy both positions, viz., locating free grants and making sales, is carefully concealed by the pamphlet.

Again, all the work done by the agents under the Mining Act and in connection with mining sales and by way of correspondence with settlers, imparting information and exhibiting maps, plans, etc., is also carefully withheld by the writer of the pamphlet.

The pamphleteer is compelled in order to give an appearance of large salaries to go back to the years 1890 and 1891. He has taken care not to state that in 1891 the salaries of several agents were reduced as follows, viz: The agent at Sault Ste. Marie from \$500 to \$200; the agent in Algoma East, Mr. Day, \$500 to \$100; the agent at Port Arthur, \$400 to \$250; the agent in Addington from \$500 to \$200, that one agency was closed, and that the Commissioner of Crown Lands announced during the session of that year that further and other reductions were being made where the sales had fallen off.