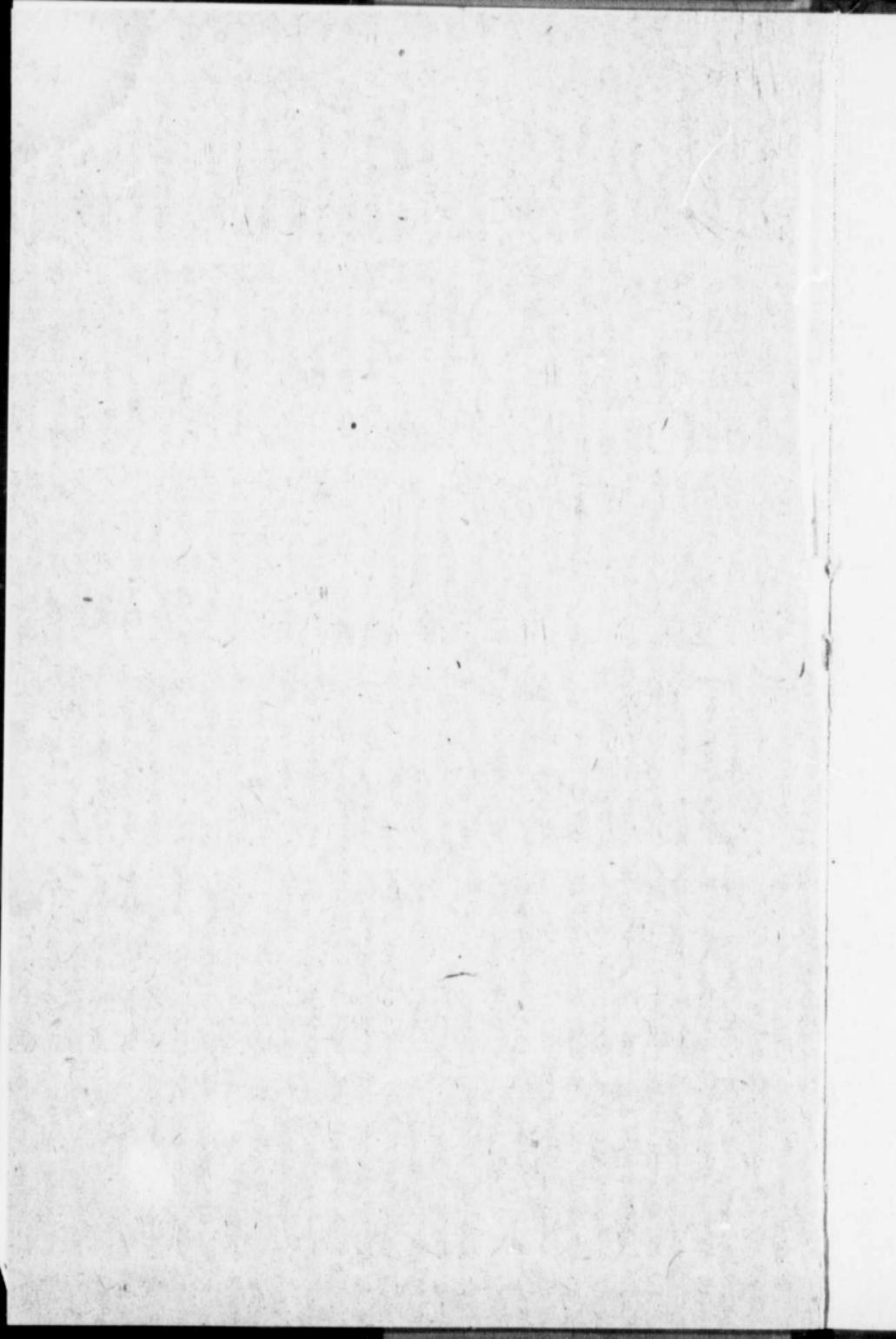


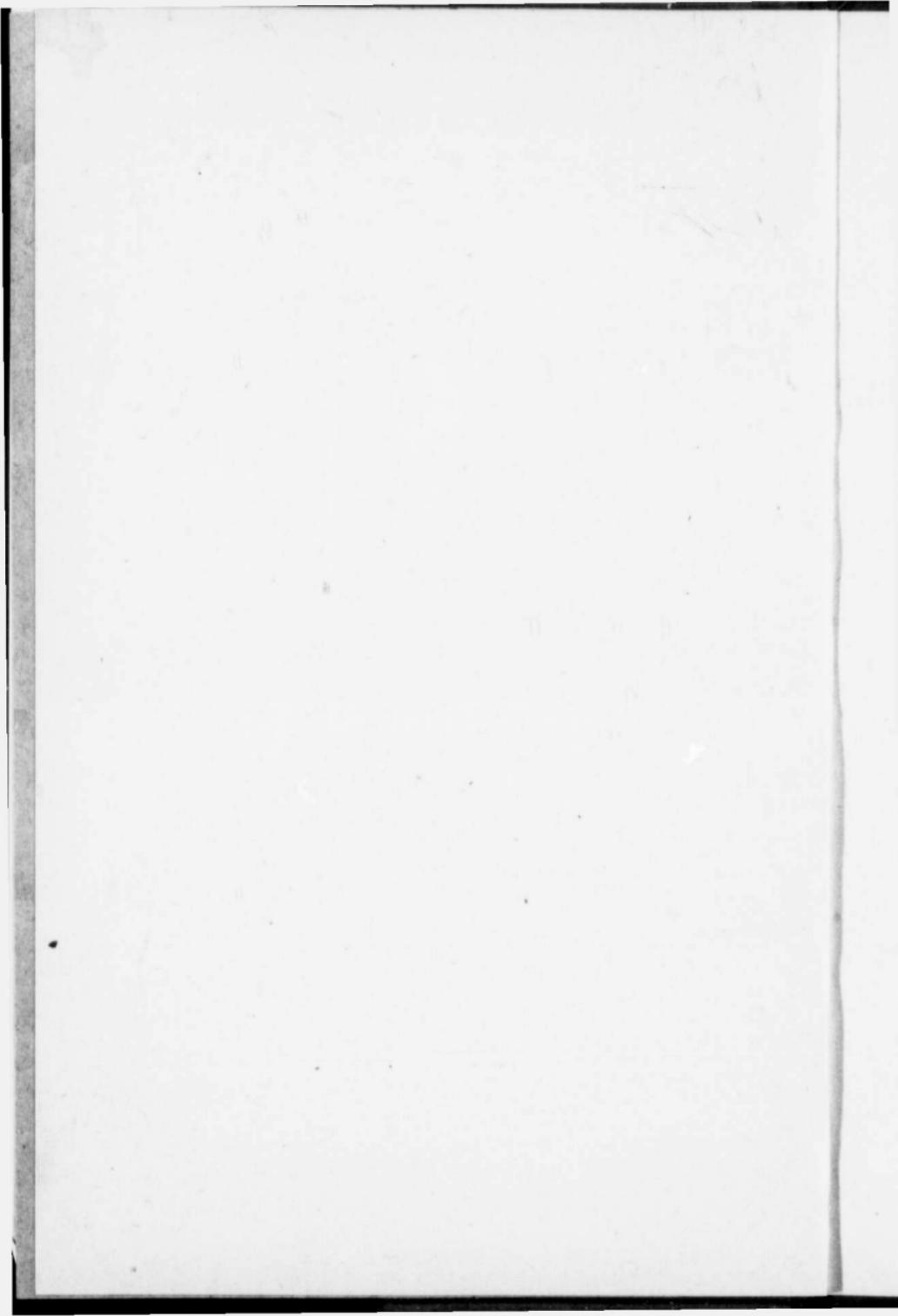
THE POSITION
OF
THE SETTLER
IN THE
Province of Quebec



BY
JOHN HALL KELLY



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EXPLANATORY NOTE

On the 14th of March I had the pleasure of receiving from Mr. P. G. Owen, Secretary-Treasurer of the Province of Quebec Limit Holders Association, a pamphlet entitled «*The Position of the Limit Holder in the Province of Quebec.*»

This pamphlet, although signed by no one in particular, was written by one of the Limit Holders of the Province.

When a copy was delivered to me, Mr. Owen gave me to understand that it was to be sent to all the newspapers of the Province of Quebec, as well as to all the members of the Local Legislature, to Sir Wilfrid Laurier and to many other public men.

As Mr. Owen was acting in his official capacity of Secretary of this very great Association of the Province of Quebec, this pamphlet will, no doubt, call for a certain amount of attention, from the general public and I now take the opportunity of refuting a number of statements, concerning the Honorable Minister of Colonization, Mr. Prevost, and myself, which, in my opinion, have been falsely placed before the public by the Official Representative of the Limit Holders' Association.

The Position of the Settler in the Province of Quebec.

REPLY

The « recent speeches made by the Honorable Mr. Prevost » and myself, in the Legislative Assembly at Quebec, regarding the Limit Holder and the Settler, have caused this spontaneous outburst of criticism on the part of the Secretary of the Limit Holders' Association. Now, what is the real position.

Hon. Mr. Prévost

As we are all aware, a few months ago, the Honorable Mr. Prevost was called to the Department of Colonization, Mines and Fisheries of this Province. Being a young man, in the full energy of youth, he immediately set about studying the different questions re-

lating to Colonization and to Crown Lands, and in order to become better acquainted with the requirements of the people, he visited nearly every part of the Province of Quebec.

After hearing what the Settlers had to say in particular, he called a Meeting on the 21st, 22nd and 23rd November last, at St-Jerome, of all the Settlers of this Province in order again to discuss this great question of Colonization which after all is one of the most important that we have to face to-day in our Province

Mr. Owen, was invited, in his official capacity to attend this congress, and although the most important questions concerning Colonization and the timber industry were discussed, Mr. Owen did not consider it worth while to be present ; probably had he have been there, he would not be circulating the pamphlet in question.

After hearing all parties concerned, after studying the interests of the Limit Holder, as well as those of the Settler, the Honorable Mr. Prevost came to the conclusion that the only way to fully protect the interests of both part-

ies, is to set aside a certain amount of territory for Colonization, and to close the remainder of the Province, and not to open it until the requirements of real settlement would demand it.

His project was simply this :—to give lands to settlers who are really serious, and to stamp out, if possible, the great curse, not only to the Limit Holder, but also of the Settler, I mean the small speculator.

Mr. Prevost has gone heart and soul into this question, and during the past Session he gave the Local Legislature of the Province of Quebec the benefit of his study and of his projected plans.

I also had occasion to speak on this question during last Session, and to-day we now find ourselves in face of the following criticism from the Official Representative of the Province of Quebec Limit Holders' Association :—

« The recent speeches of Messrs. Kelly
« and Prevost in the Legislative Assembly at
« Quebec, regarding the Limit Holder and the
« Settler, are the entering wedges of a dan-

«gerous attack upon the rights of the form-
«er. . . They propose in one way or the other
«to take the timber from the Limit Holder
«who has purchased it from the people in
«good faith, and to give it back to some of
«the other people, without re-imbursing the
«Limit Holder. Stripped of all verbiage, what
«they propose to do amounts to confiscation
«and nothing else.»

The « recent speech » made by the Honorable Mr. Prevost in the Local Legislature was to a great extent a repetition of what he said at the Colonization Congress at St-Jerome.

Honorable Mr. Prévost's speech in Quebec Legislature

I will now quote a few of his remarks in order to show the bad faith of the writer of the Pamphlet above-referred to :—

THE COLONIZATION RESERVES SQUATTERISM

‘ Honorable Honore Mercier whom it is
‘ my frequent pleasure to quote, used to say :
‘ It is our duty to go forward and meet colon-

'ization. We will not allow colonization to
'proceed without guidance leaving the colon-
'ists to advance into the depths of the forest
'and endure innumerable hardship. We shall
'point out to them good farm lands ; we will
'give them good roads and thus put them in
'a position to live happily and to prosper.'

« I see in these words the first formulat-
« ion of the system of Colonization Reserves.

« One of those who had the advantage
« of knowing him intimately through family
« ties and of receiving from himself the last
« thoughts and national aspirations of this
« eminent patriot, Honorable Mr. Gouin, was
« the first, during his transient occupation of
« the functions of Minister of Colonization,
« to realize this system of colonization, the
« only logical, the only efficacious one.

« Colonists are not patient. It is their
« great fault. They are, in general, of an ad-
« venturous spirit ; they do not foresee obs-
« tacles and chafe impatiently when they meet
« them. Colonists closely resemble adoles-
« cents and young men, who, with an immat-
« ure and imperfect knowledge of life, fondly

« imagine all they have to do is to go right
« ahead in order to reach the goal rapidly.
« That it is advisable oftentimes to take a
« round about way, to stop anon and reflect,
« never enters their heads. The slightest dis-
« appointment they meet with however seems
« to them to be due to the lack of good will of
« the world.

« I must say that it is not only our Que-
« bec Colonists who are carried away by their
« restlessness or who suffer through their lack
« of experience or on account of their ventur-
« some hardihood. Let us refer to the couns-
« els given by Hanotaux to the French Colon-
« ists.

« I wish to give a word of advice to the
« future Colonist : do not undertake too much,
« confine yourselves at the outset within nar-
« row limits, for, if there is a seduction which
« acts on the imagination of the young, it is
« to see oneself master of a large domain.
« When land is cheap, the temptation is great
« to acquire vast lands. Nothing is more dan-
« gerous. Proceed, on the contrary, slowly,
« feel your way, take as a little risk as possi-

« ble, hold something in reserve. If the price
« of land is small, the necessity of clearing the
« land and of working it involves considerable
« expense which almost invariably far exceeds
« all calculations.

« It is therefore a natural sequence of the
« foregoing that the great danger menacing
« the logical progress and true object of the
« colonization movement in Squatterism. Our
« Canadian Colonist is a forest roamer (cou-
« reur des bois.

« Gaston de Montigny says :

‘ Colonization Reserves will intensify co-
‘ lonization undertakings in certain fixed
‘ zones, separate and distinguished from for-
‘ est reserves, which latter will thus be pre-
‘ served by more effectually withdrawing
‘ from them the dangers to which they have
‘ been exposed through squatterism.

‘ The Provincial Government is thorough-
‘ ly awake to these dangers which are occas-
‘ ioned to the forests of the Province by
‘ Squatters, who establish themselves at ran-
‘ dom and break ground in an ill-advised and
‘ untimely manner in the centre of forest re-

' serves containing merchantable timber. But, while establishing that this scourge has existed for the last fifty years and has resisted all attempts at stamping it out by legislation, the Government contends there is only one effectual means of suppressing and eliminating the Squatter and that is to direct with method provincial colonization ; that is to render it accessible and practical by the creation of Colonization Reserves. Otherwise there will always be squatters, because there will always be men who prefer agricultural work to any other, and, who will set the laws at defiance in order to create for themselves a fief in the heart of the forest, unless there is some regular system permitting them to create this fief without placing themselves without the bounds of the law.'

Establishment of the Reserves

ENTERPRISE OF MR.GOUIN

« The initiative of creating these Colonization Reserves was taken in 1902, by the

« Honorable Prime Minister, then Minister
« of Colonization and Public works.

« In a letter addressed by him to Honor-
« able Mr. Parent who was at that time Com-
« missioner of Crown Lands, he stated on the
« occasion of the opening of the Gouin road.

« To derive all possible advantage from
« the projected works whose cost will be ra-
« ther heavy, I have the honor to request that
« you hold these lots in reserve for the bene-
« fit of the Department of Colonization, by
« instructing your Agent whom it may con-
« cern, to sell them only to colonists whom we
« will designate to him and who will have
« been approved of by us. We will thus have
« lots of land at the disposal of the new arriv-
« als, and we will be enabled to establish them
« in groups. Otherwise, it is reasonable to pre-
« sume that things will happen there, as they
« have happened elsewhere, and some fine day
« it will be found that everything will have
« been taken up, with a few colonists residing
« here and there, and the road unopened and
« its maintenance altogether neglected. I
« should think it worth while to give this idea

« a trial ; it can be done quietly and then if
« it was not successful, we would not be worse
« off. »

On the 5th February 1902, Mr. E. E. Taché, Deputy Commissioner of Crown Lands wrote to the Minister of Colonization, informing him of the decision of the Minister of Crown Lands, to grant him a certain number of lots comprised in the Townships of Montigny, Boyer, Campbell, Rochon, Moreau and Wurtele.

The contiguous lots form a strip about three miles in width and 28 to 30 miles in length.

In his report to the Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Quebec, under date 18th January 1905, the Honorable Minister of Colonization and Public works stated : « The relative ease with which the First Colonization Reserve has been established has induced me to pursue the application of this system and I have no doubt that the wholly satisfactory results, already obtained with the Reserve in the County of Ottawa, will be reproduced at Sayabec-Matane and the Baie des Chaleurs.

In his report to the Honorable Minister of Colonization and Public works, under date 30th June 1905. Mr. Dufault, the Deputy-Minister of the Department stated :

« We propose giving our attention to the
« reserves of which I have already briefly
« spoken in preceding reports. It is our in-
« tention this summer to continue the work of
« opening and improving the roads. Very
« soon, in these reserves, the means of com-
« munication will enable the lots which are
« for sale to be easily reached—this is al-
« ready the case of the Gouin Road Reserve.
« This fact, I would say, new in the annals of
« colonization, should attract the attention of
« the farmers of the old parishes who wish
« to provide for the establishing of their child-
« ren. We ask them in consequence to cor-
« respond with this department. »

I leave to any fair-minded man to judge whether there is anything in the above remarks to justify such accusations as have been brought against the Honorable Minister of Colonization by the Official Representative of the Limit Holders' Association.

I feel confident, however, that the Honorable Minister will not leave this occasion pass by without answering some of the arguments put forth by his accuser ; but in justice to the Minister, who is now absent or about to leave the Province for Europe, I feel that it is my duty while answering the accusations made against myself to produce the remarks of the Honorable Minister, so that he may not be condemned, without his case being placed clearly before the public.

I might state here, in passing, that we have never had in the Province of Quebec, in my opinion at least, a Minister of Colonization who had*at heart the interest of Colonization to the same extent as our present Minister. We have a man who is full of courage, full of energy, who is trying to work for the greater advancement of his country, in order to better the position of the Settler, while respecting the rights of the Limit Holder ; and because he tries to act as a public man should, he is assailed by accusations from a man in position and who, I hope, after he will have read the

above remarks of the Minister of Colonization will change his opinion.

As for the remarks that I made in the House of Assembly during the last Session, I do not fear any fair criticism, and I am quite ready to justify the stand, that I took on the occasion.

So that there might be no misunderstanding, I here produce a summarized report of certain parts of my remarks, which appeared in the Montreal Daily Herald of February 15th 1906.

Discussed in Provincial Legislature

In moving my resolution in regard to the colonization congress at St. Jérôme, I spoke in part as follows :

To-day we have the lumber merchant to deal with, and the settler at the same time. While in some cases they agree, still in many others they seem to be working in the opposite direction, to one another. All this is caused by the fact that the limit holder and the settler are both allowed, once the settler takes a lot of

land, to work on the same lot at the same time. The only way to solve this question is to create colonization reserves and then to close the rest of the Province to colonization and only open it when the necessities of colonization exact it, and when the reserves will be fully settled.

The first thing to do after the reserves are decided upon will be to notify the limit holder that a reserve has been created in his limit, and, that, within a certain time, the rights of the Limit Holder on the reserve will cease. The Limit Holder should be given at least one year to take his wood off the lots which will be created into a reserve.

This is the Limit Holder's right. According to our present law the Limit Holder has a right to the wood above certain sizes on his limit, and while I would like to see the settler have all the wood that is on the lot that he may choose for farming, still we must respect the rights of the Limit Holder for which he has paid.

To-day when a settler takes up a lot of land, he is obliged to commence clearing a few acres the first year, and if he commences

time. in the month of June he is obliged to work
reate on till the next spring before he can sow his
rest crop, and then wait till the following autumn
open before he can realize anything from his labor.
exact During all this time that he is working at the
tled. land and preparing it for the plough, and then
erves waiting for his crop, he must provide for the
limit livelihood of himself and his little family.
(his That is to say, he must leave his lot to work
the elsewhere.
will

n at The only way the settler can really do to
lots work on his lot and gain his living at the same
time, is to give him the right to use the wood
that is on the lot when he takes it. I therefore
Ac- call on the Hon. Minister of Colonization and
lder the Hon. Minister of Crown Lands to try and
on unite their efforts so as to obtain from the
the lumberman that he will leave on the lots for
that the settler, the wood that will be there, when
res- the reserves will be created. Would it not be
rich possible for the Government to indemnify the
of Limit Holder for this concession by giving
; a him lands elsewhere in compensation for the
ces timber that he will leave to the settler ?

As regards the policy of cancelling lots,

I consider that the Hon. Minister of Colonization is adopting a wise policy in cancelling from people who hold lots for mere speculation and thus keeping back colonization. I wish, however, to remark that there are certain exceptions. In the county that I have the honor to represent there are a great many people holding lots and who have not made their improvements. These men are not in bad faith however, and if they have not made their improvements it is because they have no roads leading to their properties. Once the Government will give them a road they will be the first to start in their improvements.

One of the best results that will be gained from the Colonization Reserves will be to group the settlers together. If we establish these reserves, the Department of Colonization will be able to gather the settlers together on these chosen spots, which will be especially set aside for colonization, and will be able to give them the best lands possible, and will have a continual watch over them.

This policy of thus gathering the settlers together is not by any means a new one. It

is one of the characteristics of the Canadian people who wish to settle on farming lands, to try to go as far away as possible from the large centres, and all true statesmen have always been of the same opinion in saying that the best method was to group the settlers together as much as possible. In the early days of the colony the same instinct of trying to penetrate deeply in the forests manifested itself, as we notice in our people of to-day.

Schools for Settlers

In thus creating the Colonization Reserves and congregating the settlers together as much as possible, we will be able to farm in a rational manner, and will be able to put into practice all the modern improvements that time and experience alone have taught us. One of the greatest advantages, however, will be the creation of schools for the settlers. To-day every farmer wishes to give his son as much education as possible. With our present way of giving lots to the settlers, by leaving them to their own choice, it is impossible for the

Government to establish the necessary schools, and thus it too often happens that the settlers not having the means to send their children five or six miles to the nearest school, allow them to grow up void of all education.

Advantages for Lumber Merchants

By thus grouping the settlers on Colonization Reserves, while rendering advantages to the settler, we will also be rendering a great service to the Limit Holders, and we cannot overlook the rights of the good faith Limit Holders, for they certainly contribute a great part to the revenue of our province. One of the first advantages that will be given to the Limit Holder will be the protection that will be afforded to his property against fire. He will then no longer be kept in continual anxiety of awaking up some morning and seeing his limits ablaze, by the fact of some solitary Settler sowing a few bushels of potatoes, as it has already happened in the Ottawa district, where over two millions worth of beautiful pine limits went up in smoke by the negligence of

a single settler, who had settled in the heart of one of the finest limits north of Montréal, and who had started a fire one morning in order to clear up a piece of land, an acre wide, by three quarters of an acre deep. It does not always happen, but in a great many cases fires have thus been set by settlers clearing up their lands and being negligent as to how, when and where their fires were set.

Another great advantage for the Limit Holder will be that he will no longer see his lands falling into the hands of petty speculators, as it has so often happened in the past. In fact, what is more aggravating for a Limit Holder who works his limits in good faith, than to see a number of small little mills starting up here and there on the border of his limit, especially when he knows that in nine cases out of ten, this is done in order to rob him, when they can, of a part of his wood. With the present system, and with the law as it reads, once a lot has been classified and the classification sanctioned by an order in council, the Crown Land agent is obliged to sell to any applicant any lot that is fit for cultivation, and

which has not on it a too large quantity of merchantable wood. If the lot has not been classified then the agent is obliged to sell once he has the proof that the lot is not for cultivation and does not contain too large a quantity of merchantable wood. Thus what greater inducement is there for the speculator than that offered by the present law ?

Difficulties system will offer

If in creating these reserves we could immediately pick out Crown Lands upon which the Limit Holders do not hold any claim, it would be a very easy task then for the Honorable Minister to create his Colonization Reserves, but as it is, we are obliged in most cases, if not all, to choose these reserves from lands that are now under license to Limit Holders. If the Honorable Minister decides to open up a reserve in a limit that is being worked in good faith by a bona fide Limit Holder, and he finds that he will need four ranges of this limit for a reserve, and that he can immediately find sufficient men to settle at

once on this area, now would it be just to say to this bona fide Limit Holder you shall immediately see those four ranges taken out of your limit, and if you wish to save your wood you have only till the first day of May to do so ? I think, Mr. Speaker, that it would not be giving justice to the Limit Holder to sell immediately out of his limit four or six ranges in order to create a reserve, without giving him a certain time during which he shall have the right to take off his wood. Now, how long should we give him ? In the special report made by the late Hon. G. W. Stephens, one of the original Commissioners appointed by this Government on the commission of colonization, he recommends that one year at least should be given to the Limit Holder, and I might say that I consider the delay suggested by the Hon. Mr. Stephens only right and just. That is to say, once a reserve would be decided upon, the Limit Holder should be notified that a reserve has been created ; that roads will be made at once in this reserve, and that in one year's time he will have no more right on these lots and that they will be taken out of

his limit. It will be a certain sacrifice for a Limit Holder to see all at once a number of miles taken out of his domain, but on the other hand once the reserve has been created he will know that in the future he will not be bothered any longer by seeing lots taken here and there at random in his limits by men who have no intention of settling on them, and he will be thus no longer obliged to commence his winter operations at four or five different places where he did not least expect it, as it often happens under the present circumstances.

As regards the Settler

Now, in giving this year's delay to the Limit Holder to take away his wood, what advantage will it be for the settler? First of all, the giving of a year to the Limit Holder to take away his wood will have this advantage for the settler, namely, the latter will know that once he takes a lot of land he will not see another come on his lot and exercise his rights of ownership, which has been the great cause of all the evil so far experienced.

wishes to make his improvements and earn his patent, then the wood that will be on the lot when it is sold to him will be there after he has gained his patent, if he, the settler, has not himself taken it away.

But it seems to me that I hear a cry coming from different parts of the province, and I hear certain parties saying : you give us reserves where the Limit Holder has passed, and where the wood is all taken off. This cry will, in my opinion, not be well founded. To-day under the present law the Limit Holder has until the first of May to cut the wood off the lot that is taken out of limit. Now, whether the Limit Holder takes the wood off before the settler takes the lot, or whether he takes it off after the settler has taken the land, what difference does it make ? The right to take the wood belongs to the Limit Holder, and whether he exercises his right before or after the reserves are created the lot of the settler is made no worse.

The whole strain of my remarks was to the effect that we should strive by all possible means to bring about a better understanding

The settler will know that when the Government will sell him a lot that he will have the lot such as it is sold to him ; if he works and between the Limit Holder and the Settler. In my remarks I clearly say that, if we create Colonization Reserves, we should at least give a certain time to the Limit Holder, in which to take his wood away.

I suggested, that before Reserves are created, we should notify the Limit Holder of the fact that, within a certain time, a certain part of his Territory should be taken up for Colonization purposes, that Roads will be made in that part of the Limit and that Settlers will be placed there.

I go further and suggest giving the Limit Holder to a certain extent greater facilities than he now possesses, by calling upon the Government to notify the Limit Holder of its intention of creating these Reserves.

Is there anything in this which does any injustice to the Limit Holder ? Is there anything in my remarks to justify the declarations made by the author of the Pamphlet now

being circulated by the Limit Holders of this Province..

To-day, as we are all aware, under the present law, if the Minister of Colonization wished, he could bring along five hundred Settlers and sell them lots in any particular Limit of this Province, without giving a single day's notice to the Limit Holder ; he could bring them on the 25th day of March and sell the five hundred lots required, and thus take them away from the Limit Holder, giving him only till the 30th of April to take his wood away, and the Limit Holder would not have a word to say.

One of the Conditions of the License

In the License that the Limit Holder takes from the Government of this Province, it is stated that the Limit Holder shall be subject to the Laws and Regulations of the Department of Crown lands and if we turn to the regulations now in force, and which have been in force since October 17th 1904, we find at Article 3, that the

Government has full power and authority to take the whole Limit for Colonization, if the Minister judges advisable so to do, for the public welfare.

Since the Limit Holders know under what conditions their License is granted to them, they know that the Government has the power to sell lots, and because we suggest some way by which the Limit Holder will be left alone on his Limit, the authorized Agent of the Limit Holders' Association turns around and accuses us of wishing to confiscate the lands and lumber that belong to the Limit Holders.

Challenge to Mr. Owen to prove his declarations

I defy Mr. Owen or the Association that he represents to show a single declaration made by the Honorable Minister of Colonization or myself « in which we propose to take the timber from the Limit Holder who has purchased it from the people, in good faith, and to give it to some of the people, without

re-imbursing the Limit Holder. »

In my remarks I suggested that too much wood cannot be left to the Settler, I even went so far as to call upon the Honorable Minister of Crown Lands to join hands with the Minister of Colonization to see if there would not be some possibility of coming to an agreement by which the Limit Holder would consent to leave the wood on the Reserves, that would be there when the same were created.

Because I made this suggestion, Mr. Owen makes the following childish criticism :

« Mr. Kelly does not seem to wish to be
« unreasonable, but apparently he is acquaint-
« ed only with one side of the controversy.
« He suggests that a Limit Holder might be
« given land in one place to compensate him
« for that taken in another ; and this suggest-
« ion is evidently made in a spirit of fair play.
« But how absurd would it be to take property
« adjacent to a market away and to substitute
« for it land which is possibly near no avail-
« able market. Or, take another instance :
« Does Mr. Kelly mean that after a man has

« expended many thousands and perhaps hundreds of thousands of dollars in improvements and establishing his business that he should be told to move off and leave these behind ? »

The writer of the above quotation is trying to avoid the question. I never suggested that we should go to-day and take away from the Limit Holder his mills, buildings, etc., etc ; and I am sure that no fairminded man would put that interpretation on my remarks.

As we are all aware, the great trouble that exists to-day arises from the fact that in many cases there are too many persons on the same lot at the same time.

For instance when a lot is sold ; the Settler has his rights, the Limit Holder has his and the Government also has a certain interest in the lot. That is to say that we have three parties at the same time that have rights vested in the same piece of land.

Now, my suggestion simply has for object, in the cases where it can be carried out, to compensate the Limit Holder by offering him lands elsewhere.

According to my suggestion, he has the right to refuse or accept. If he accepts, it will be because he finds an interest in doing so. After all, if we can offer the Limit Holder lands elsewhere and, if he is willing to accept them, I do not see why every one would not be contented. No one wants to go in and drive the Limit Holder out. He is an element with which we have to deal and without which in many cases Colonization could not succeed. But in cases where friction is apt to arise I think it would be better for all concerned, if the Settler when taking his lot would know that he is the sole master and that his obligations consist simply in carrying out the requirements of the law. If we can succeed in creating Colonization Reserves, the advantages, as I have stated in my remarks here above, are many and they are as great for the Limit Holder as they are for the Settler.

Banks and Railways

The Pamphlet states that it would be interesting to know « how many business inter-

«ests are closely allied with ours, starting out
« with two of the greatest, *vis* : Banks and
« Railways. »

I do not hesitate to say that, if we could come to some solution by which the Limit Holder can be sole owner of his Limit, and by which he will have a guarantee that no lots in the future are to be taken out of his Limits, after the Reserves are created, his position will be, at least fifty per cent better with the Bankers than it is to-day.

To-day as Limit Holders themselves will admit, Bankers hesitate to advance money on Limits, because the Limit Holder, properly speaking, has no real security. His Limit might be taken up at any moment for Colonization and hence the Bankers hesitate before lending money thereon. If by bringing about the system proposed by the Honorable Minister of Colonization, we could guarantee the Limit Holder that no more lots will be sold out of his limit for ten or fifteen years to come, would it not be an advantage for him from a commercial standpoint as well as from a manufacturing point of view.

The System is the same as proposed at St. Jérôme

Mr. Owen's two criticisms

The remarks that the Honorable Minister of Colonization made in the House are the same that he made at the Colonization Congress at St. Jérôme.

The same applies to my utterances on the two occasions.

After the Congress, the proceedings of which are reported in all our Daily Papers, the Pulp and Paper Magazine of Toronto and Montreal commented on the whole as follows :

« You will probably have noticed in
« the papers lately the Report of a Coloniza-
« tion Congress, held at St. Jérôme. Various
« suggestions were made by the speakers,
« tending to minimize or altogether do away
« with the so-called friction between the Lumb-
« ermen and the Settlers, Mr. Kelly, M. P. P.
« for Bonaventure, suggests that a certain Re-
« serve of cultivable lands should be made for

« Colonization purposes and the Limit Hold-
« ers, in which this land is situated, shall be
« given a reasonable notice before the lands
« are sold ; so as to permit of their cutting the
« timber there is on it.

« Before the above areas are opened for
« settlement the Government are to construct
« Roads and this will greatly facilitate com-
« munication for the Settlers.

« *This proposition is a very big advance*
« *towards a settlement of this troublesome*
« *question*, as it will guarantee to the Limit
« Holder, if the notices served are sufficient,
« time to cut the merchantable timber from
« the lots, and it will also have the advantage
« for the Settlers of concentrating settlements
« and giving them communication.

« Mr. Kelly suggests that the balance of
« the lands under License, except those Re-
« serves above mentioned, shall be complete-
« ly shut to settlement, until such time as ne-
« cessity arises for the reserving of other
« areas.

« While not wishing to say that, in its
« present state Mr. Kelly's suggestion is per-

«fect, I consider that he has had the courage
«to approach this matter in a thoroughly
«statesmanlike manner and has looked upon
«the claims of all parties from an unprejudic-
«ed point of view.»

This article was written by Mr. Owen :

The same Mr. Owen who is now so prominent in decrying the proposed system of to-day.

What made Mr. Owen conclude in November last that my suggestions were good, and a great advance towards a settlement of this troublesome question, and to say to-day, that they are ridiculous, etc., etc. If Mr. Owen will look up the *Soleil of Quebec*, Nov. 25th, 26th and 27th, and compare my remarks with those made in the House during the last Session, he will see that they are exactly the same and he will also see in what a ridiculous position he has placed himself, when he will compare his present Pamphlet with his article just quoted. Would Mr. Owen be kind enough to give us an explanation ?

I fail to understand why the Representative of the Province of Quebec Limit Hold-

er's Association did not take up this question in the same light as he is looking at it at present, after the Congress of Colonization at St. Jérôme, or after the Debate which took place in the House during last Session, when the Minister of Colonization would thus have been in a position to reply to his critic, who has put forth a lot of statements wholly unfounded and without the least justification.

The writer of the Pamphlet in question refers to the great good that the Limit Holder does in this Province. I must agree with the writer when he makes this statement and say that the Limit Holder, who works his Limit in good faith is a blessing for any Country ; and that is why I am trying in my humble way to better the condition of the Limit Holder, as well as that of the Settler.

The great trouble that we have to deal with is not the Settler but the Petty Speculator. Once these Reserves will be created, the Department of Colonization will have complete control over the lots which are reserved, and the operations of the Speculator will be reduced to their smallest scale. If this point

alone can be secured, it will be the greatest blessing that the Limit Holders in this Province ever received.

The Settler and his obligations

In the Pamphlet circulated by Mr. Owen, on page 5, he asks the following question :

« What does the Settler do with his forest lot ? and he answers this question by saying : »

« He strips it as fast as he can and then « strives to get another ; in the meantime « stealing as much as he can from the Limit « Holder ; he pays nothing to the people for « the stumpage and makes no return whatever « for what he receives. »

It is quite evident that Mr. Owen makes no distinction between the Settler and the Petty Speculator. The goodfaith Settler does not act as it has just been stated. The Settler in good faith always does everything in his power to preserve the wood that is on his lot. It is his interest to do so. If he keeps the wood for a few years, then, after the patent

issues, this wood belongs to him ; he does not pay any stumpage dues, after the patent issues, and hence in many cases the Settler makes great sacrifices in order to preserve his wood.

The man who acts as Mr. Owen states, is the speculator, and I am quite positive that the Honorable Minister of Colonization has no mercy or pity for this great curse, not only to the Limit Holder, but also to the good-faith Settler.

When Mr. Owen states that the Settler (I mean the good-faith Settler) pays nothing, no stumpage dues and makes no return whatever for what he receives, he is making a statement which is absolutely without foundation. For every stick of timber or wood that the Settler cuts, outside of his improvements on his lot, the law compels him to pay double stumpage dues, and the regulations in the Department of Crown Lands are very severe on this point.

Mr. Owen states that no return is made. This is another mis-statement. The Settler, if he wishes to benefit by the clause in the law,

which enables him to cut wood, only in his improvements, without paying any stumpage dues, is obliged to go to the Crown Lands Agent and declare what amount of wood he has thus cut, on what part of his lot and when it has been cut. If the Settler does not do this, he is liable like anyone else to pay not only single duty but double duty.

Cancellation of Lots in the Reserves

One of the remarks about the cancellation of lots in these Reserves, to which I referred in my speech at St. Jérôme and to which also I alluded in the House during last Session, calls for special attention by the writer of « the Position of the Limit Holder. »

So that there may be no misunderstanding on this point, I will ask Mr. Owen to refer to the Quebec « Soleil » of November 25th, which expressed my views as uttered at St. Jérôme, and which have been already approved of by Mr. Owen, in his article above quoted, which appeared in the Pulp and Paper Magazine.

These remarks were not intended to apply to every case where lots have been held and not improved.

If special cases are found, and I know of a number that fall under the conditions mentioned by me at St. Jérôme, I am sure that the Limit Holders of this Province would not wish to take from these good-faith Settlers lands which they have held and protected for the subsistence of their families and not with the object of speculation.

If however, as soon as Colonization Reserves are created, and the roads made, these men fail to make their improvements within a certain fixed delay, then I consider that the lots should be cancelled, without mercy.

If after the Reserves are created it is pointed out to the Minister of Colonization that a number of lots, not contained in the Reserves, are held for mere speculation, to the detriment of the general public, and to the detriment of the Limit Holder, I am sure that the Honorable Minister will follow the same policy that he so ably commenced a few weeks ago, by cancelling a number of lots that were

fit for cultivation, with splendid roads leading to them, that were held for the mere object of speculation.

The Minister has shown his good faith in this line and every action of his, and every word that he has uttered go to show that he intends to protect the Settler, to protect the Limit Holder and to crush the Petty Speculator.

His able Speech made at the Forestry Convention held at Ottawa speaks for itself. This Address was delivered in the presence of Lord Grey, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Monsignor J. C. K. Laflamme and a large number of other able, eminent and prominent men, including a great number of the Limit Holders of this Province. As soon as the Honorable Minister had finished his remarks on that occasion, in which he referred to his colonization scheme of creating Colonization Reserves, Honorable Senator Edwards, one of the largest Limit Holders in the Province of Quebec and of Ontario, a man of experience, and whose opinion is worthy of being mentioned, being called upon to address the meeting, said that the scheme that Hon. Mr. Prévost pro-

poses, is the best that has ever been suggested in the Province of Quebec and, if carried out, will prove a benefit to the Limit Holder as well as to the Settler. Hon. Mr. Prévost's policy will be the commencement of a new era for the Limit Holders in the Province of Quebec.

We must not judge a man simply by a stray remark here and there ; but take his words and expressions as a whole.

Hon. Mr. Prévost's Speech at the Ottawa Forestry Convention

Hon. Mr. Prévost's address at the Forestry convention held at Ottawa, and to which Hon. Senator Edwards made mention as stated above, also outlines his policy and his remarks were as follows :

« I am highly gratified, indeed, to be afforded an opportunity to cooperate in the work of a convention, the proceedings of which, I hope, will bring about the most satisfactory results towards furthering the prosperity of this

country. The people of Canada will owe a debt of gratitude to the Federal Government, if the latter's efforts attain the commendable object it has in view. True it is that the control of forest lands lies with the provinces, and that they cannot be deprived of their right ; yet I am willing to recognize that the federal Government, without interfering with such constitutional rights, can devise the means of contributing in a perfectly constitutional manner to the preservation and reproduction of forests in the whole Dominion. I am ready, as a member of the Quebec Administration, to give my most hearty and most efficient support to the carrying out of an undertaking which we look upon as desirable, and in a high degree patriotic. I am quite willing also to admit that we have, perhaps, carried somewhat too far the deforestation in the Province of Quebec, but we were compelled so to do by the necessity in which we found ourselves to provide sufficient revenue for the management of our public affairs. And this unfortunate obligation is imposed upon us by the B. N. A. Act itself, which provides very inadequate re-

venue to the provinces for the requirements of effective government. Although we are forced to derive the bulk of our revenue from the forests, we did not however lose sight of the fact that our principal asset is the forest, and which we care least to depreciate. For several years past, the Province of Quebec has followed a policy for the preservation of its forests, and I doubt if of all the provinces of the Dominion, it is not in ours that the largest area is set aside for forest reserves. These reserves are located in districts where colonization offers slight advantages for colonizing purposes. Other reserves will soon be laid aside and in none of them will the Settler be allowed to pitch camp for many years to come. It is a well known theory that rivers derive their supply of water from mountains and forests, and it is as much for regulating the flow of water in our rivers and water powers as for keeping up the production of our forests that we have already set aside certain forest reserves, and intend creating more. In order to better effect the education of the people in the Province of Quebec, our Government has

now in the famous Yale University, where Mr. Gifford Pinchot, chief of the Forest Service in the United States, secured the practical knowledge which he displayed before us a couple of days ago, two pupils who will soon be acting among our people as duly qualified instructors. We have also established colonization reserves alongside those above referred to, and they are located in those districts which are better suited for colonizing purposes. These will soon satisfy all the requirements and it is our intention then to discourage the Settler from colonizing outside these limits, by affording him special privileges. We expect the best of results from this policy, and the sooner the better. In order to attain this object, we would gladly accept the cooperation of the Dominion Government in granting the provinces Forestry Stations where theory would be taught, where example would be set for the preservation of forests and where a uniform impulse would be given to the operation and reproduction of forests. If it is at all in the power of the Dominion Government to help the provinces, it seems to me that this is the best possible means.

« If our farmers have drawn all that they possibly could out of the timber, it must not be inferred that there has been a wholesale destruction of the forests. I doubt if as many saw mills will be met with in the sister provinces as will be found in our French country towns. You will see them in almost every parish, and they are the basis of very profitable business. It must be noted that these saw mills do not derive their supply of logs from the timber limits, but from the farmer's lands. This state of things has been going on for many years, which goes to show that there is still a considerable proportion of dimension timber and saw lumber on the farmers' lots, and that they have been successful, to a certain extent, in ensuring the reproduction of trees.

« Plantation of ornamental trees is also taking much extension in our province, and they are not few in number those small towns where we now see growing in the shade of the Canadian maple, the elm, the ash, the birch, as well as the pine, the fir and the cedar.

« Now, it is a pertinent question to ask

whether the Settler, at least in our Province of Quebec, is really such a scourge of the forest and deserves the aspersion which is so readily cast upon him ? He is certainly guilty and his conduct cannot be too strongly condemned, he who through carelessness starts a disastrous fire in a remote district where he settled down, and it is of capital importance to take the means to prevent such calamities, but quite different is the Settler who, under reasonable conditions, clears the forest to make a home for his family. Under such conditions, would it not be a crime to stop deforestation for the sole purpose of keeping the timber for the limit owners ? It would simply mean a check to the expansion of a nation ; it would be asking it to multiply on the same restricted territory, or to emigrate to a foreign land. The French Canadian is too much attached to his country, the land of his forefathers, to his parish and to his home, to entertain, even, for one instant, such a proposition, and no matter under what form it is put to him, he will know how to detect and reject it. His province is dotted with small

North-Wests which deserve all his ambition and where the forest will unavoidably yield to the cultivated land. »

I am sure that any one who reads these remarks made by the Honorable Minister will come to the conclusion that what he intends is to do justice to every one and that there is no scheme hidden behind his colonization plans.

I would be very much amused to hear from the Secretary of the Limit Holders' Association what he considers the remaining part of the wedge, to which he refers in his opening remarks.

The Limit Holders of this Province have absolutely nothing to fear from the proposed plans of the Honorable Mr. Prévost. They need not fear, as Mr. Owen states, that he is trying to enter a wedge which will be a dangerous attack against the rights of the Limit Holder. On the contrary, when the Honorable Mr. Prévost has anything to say he speaks his mind openly.

At the Meeting of the Fish and Game Association at Montreal, he told the Sports-

men what he intended to do, and he did it. He told them that he intended to increase the license fee on Sportsmen, so that he could give them better protection. He did not commence by entering any wedge on that occasion, and, I am positive, that any one who has read his speeches and followed his actions since he has been Minister of Colonization, will come to the conclusion that he is acting frankly, honestly and in a straight forward manner, in dealing with this question of the Limit Holder and the Settler.

Hon. Mr. Turgeon's Policy

Moreover the Secretary of the Limit Holders Association must remember that the policy upheld by Hon Mr. Prévost is also the policy of the Government.

It is not my intention to enter into all the details of that policy, such as I understand it, but Mr. Owen must remember that the policy of Hon. M. Prévost, concerning Colonization Reserves is practically the extending of the policy of Hon. Mr. Turgeon con-

cerning Forest Reserves. One is the corollary of the other. The policy followed by Hon. Mr. Turgeon is certainly one from which the Limit Holders of this Province will derive great benefit, and the great energy that he has displayed in dealing with these many questions of prime importance to the Limit Holders, should be a sufficient guarantee to assure the Secretary of the Limit Holders' Association that the Government is not contemplating any scheme to rob the Limit Holders of their rights.

As for myself, the remarks that I made were published at the time and they were simply the corroboration of the Minister's plans. It is true that I made certain suggestions, which I hope will be carried out. I sincerely hope, for instance, as I stated in my remarks, that the Limit Holder will be given ample time to take his wood away, for which he has paid and to which he is entitled, when a Reserve will be created. It is an act of justice, of equity, and any man who pays for anything should receive its just value in return. Under the law, as it reads to-day, there is no

special time fixed, the Limit Holder is left completely at the mercy of the man who buys his lot. If he chooses to buy a few days before the 1st of May, so much the worse for the Limit Holder.

I have suggested that this state of affairs should be remedied because I claim it is not right to thus expose a man, who is working his Limit in good faith, to see his property entered into at a time when he has not sufficient notice to take away the wood for which he has paid.

On the other hand, to protect the Settler, I have stated, and I state again, that the more wood the Settler has, the better it is for him. The first years that a Settler takes his lot, his position is not by any means an easy one. He is very often obliged to live with the wood that he takes off his lot, at the time that he receives his location ticket. While he is preparing his first few acres of land for culture in the Spring, and while his crop is growing, he is obliged to do something to live ; and, in very many cases, he lives from the wood that he finds on his lot.

My suggestion that the Limit Holder be invited to leave what wood would be there when the Reserves would be created is certainly to assist the Settler, and if, as I stated above, the Limit Holder would be willing to accept lands elsewhere in compensation for the wood that he would give up for the Settler, I think it would be to the advantage of the latter and it would be optional with the former to accept or refuse it.

The remarks made by myself as well as by the Honorable Minister tend to one object only, to solve this great question of the Limit Holder and of the Settler.

To say the least, it is very annoying to see the Representative of the Limit Holders' Association circulating such an unjustifiable Pamphlet, in order to prejudice the public mind against parties who have the interests of the Association at heart as well as those of the Settler.

I sincerely hope that after these few explanations the writer of the said Pamphlet will correct his statements. If not, I would ask him to show a single word uttered by the

Honorable Minister of Colonization or by myself which would go to show that we are entering a wedge which will be a dangerous attack upon the rights of the Limit Holder. » or to show that « we propose in one way or the other to take the timber from the Limit Holder who has purchased it from the people in good faith and to give it back to some one of the other people without re-imbursing the Limit Holder, » or I would like to see the writer show one single word uttered by the Minister or by myself in which we propose to confiscate the lands and the timber belonging to the Limit Holders. »

If he is prepared to do this, so much the better for his cause ; but, on the other hand, when a man makes such sweeping declarations as those just quoted, especially when that man represents such an important body as the Province of Quebec Limit Holders' Association, he should be man enough to back his declarations by facts, and not content himself with mere comments.

I call upon Mr. Owen who has been acting in this capacity, to prove what he states

and to show the people upon what he bases himself to make such unfounded declarations.

He is a man who holds an important position and his declarations and his Pamphlet will reach a number of important men. I am sure those men who will read this Pamphlet will ask the same question as I have heard asked already : « Where are the statements made by the Honorable Mr. Prévoist or by Mr. Kelly that justify such declarations and criticisms on the part of the Secretary of the Limit Holders' Association. »

But I really ask myself : Has Mr. Owen been authorized by the body that he represents to enter into such a campaign. It would be very interesting to know whether this important body, which counts in its members many men of high position and esteem, has authorized its Secretary to issue this Pamphlet, or is it excessive zeal on his part, in order to bring himself into prominence, as well with his employers as with the general public ?

If Mr. Owen has any special grievance against the way the Government is administering the public lands of this Province he has

a right to be heard, but he should go right to the point and not try to take a round-about-way by attacking the Honorable Mr. Prévost and myself, in the manner he has done.

The premises have been clearly set forth by Mr. Owen : robbery of the rights of the Limit Holders ; and this is gathered from the « recent speeches made by Hon. Mr. Prévost and myself. »

I am sure many will await with anticipation to see in what manner or by what means Mr. Owen will corroborate his wide spreading declarations. That part of his Pamphlet is yet to be printed.

JOHN HALL, KELLY.

New Carlisle, March 19th 1906.
