

Association must look for immediate results. Their interests should prompt them to bestow the utmost care and attention to the prevention of fires, and, if they are in the business for more than temporary profits, they should be possessed of sufficient public spirit to adopt the least destructive methods of logging and so dispose of tree-tops, and other debris, as to minimize the danger of fire and to encourage the second growth by clearing the ground as much as possible. The Government of British Columbia has done and is doing all in its power to prevent forest fires, and during the present season the fighting of fire was carried out in many parts of the Province with gratifying results. The Dominion Government officials in the Railway Belt have also worked hard to the same end, and through the united efforts of the federal and provincial fire fighters much valuable timber has been saved from destruction. The campaign inaugurated by the present Provincial Government, will be vigorously prosecuted in the future to the fullest extent which our funds will permit, and we look confidently to the people of the Province to assist us in every way.

Prior to 1871, when the Crown Colony of British Columbia became a Province of the Dominion, the lumber industry was comparatively insignificant. All the lumber cut from the foundation of the Colony in 1856 was estimated at 250,000,000 feet. Indeed, strange as it may appear, a great deal of the lumber used in those days was imported, and there is one house in Victoria to-day, within a hundred yards of the Parliament Buildings, the lumber in which was brought from San Francisco. The first legislation regulating the cutting of timber was embodied in the Crown Lands Act, 1870, which provided for the granting of leases by the Governor-in-Council to an unlimited acreage for the purpose of cutting the timber, subject to such rent as might be determined by the Governor-in-Council. The ground covered by these leases was open to pre-emption but the pre-emptor was debarred from cutting timber other than for his own use. This Act was re-enacted by the Provincial Legislature in 1875, but it does not seem, however, that advantage was taken of it to any extent, as it was not until 1879-80 that any revenue was derived from timber rentals. By an amendment to the Act passed in 1888, the tenure of timber leases was fixed at 30 years and a rental of ten cents per acre was charged and a royalty of fifty cents per thousand feet on all timber cut imposed. The lessees were required to build a mill with a capacity of 1,000 feet per day for each four hundred acres covered by the lease. This Act also provided for a penalty of \$500.00 or thirty days' imprisonment for cutting timber from Crown lands without authority. Since 1892 no leases have been granted of timber limits without the limits being offered to public competition and the lease was