

# Nova Scotia Getting Ready!

## Campaign for Provincial Forester Strengthened by Recent Conference at Halifax.

A public conference on Nova Scotia's forest problems and the need of a Provincial Forester was held at the Parliament Buildings, Halifax, on December 10th under the auspices of the Canadian Forestry Association. There were present about forty representatives of various provincial interests, including the Dominion Coal Company, the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company, the Davison Lumber and Manufacturing Company, S. H. Dunfield and Company, the Fraser Companies Limited, the Dominion Atlantic Railway, Mr. McKeen, Mr. Musgrave, S. M. Brookfield, Dr. Howard Murray, President of Dalhousie University, Prof. Blair, F. C. Whitman, and many others delegated by lumber companies, or concerned as private citizens. There were also present Mr. Clyde Leavitt, Chief Forester of the Commission of Conservation, Mr. Ellwood Wilson, Chief Forester of the Laurentide Company, Mr. G. H. Prince, Chief Forester of New Brunswick, and Mr. Robson Black, Secretary of the Canadian Forestry Association. Mr. Whitman acted as Chairman of the meeting and both sessions were favored by the presence and active participation of Hon. O. T. Daniels, Attorney General and Commissioner of Lands.

### *The Financial Question.*

The immediate consequence of the meeting was that Mr. Whitman was asked to select a committee so as to further the objects of the meeting and place before the Provincial Government a concrete proposal expressing not only the reasons for the appointment of a Provincial Forester but outlining a plan whereby the financial cost of such a new office could be met.

Various speakers gave the meeting their opinions as to the precarious state of Nova Scotia's timber supply.

For example, Mr. J. W. Revere, buyer of pit props for the Dominion Coal Company, during the past 25 years, and Mr. A. M. Seeley, acting in a similar capacity for the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company, gave a detailed and, at the same time, alarming resume of the difficulties besetting the coal companies in securing timbers within reasonable distances of the mines. Lumber buyers, as Mr. Musgrave and Mr. McKeen, declared that difficulties were now almost insurmountable in obtaining the sizes called for in orders. Other speakers, drawing upon practical experience in wood using industries, strongly advocated the appointment of a Provincial Forester and an organized fight against timber waste through fire and unwise cutting. Emphasis was given to the service that a Provincial officer could render to the small woodlot owners.

### *Hon. Mr. Daniel's Reply.*

After hearing the views of the conference, Hon. Mr. Daniels, spoke of the comprehensive nature of the present Nova Scotia Forest Fires Act and declared that the appointment of rangers had been kept entirely free from political influence. He did not directly question the value of a Provincial Forester but said that such an appointment depended upon the Government's ability to pay the upkeep of a new office. With an annual deficit and all avenues of taxation occupied, he did not see how the Treasury was to pay the proposed Provincial Forester. Mr. Daniels made it plain that he welcomed the propaganda to arouse public sentiment to the need of forest conservation.

Discussing the working of the present system of County fire wardens, the Attorney-General remarked that the forest fire loss in 1918