

Forestry Convention

Ottawa, Jan. 11.—The National Forestry Convention, called by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Premier of Canada, has met with the heartiest support, and no doubt will go down in history as one of the most beneficial gatherings ever held in the capital. The main idea in calling the convention was to consider means of reforesting burned and depleted timber areas and conserving before too late the splendid forests of the country that still remain undestroyed by axe or fire. The convention has brought out with stronger emphasis what was already apparent, that the vast timbered areas of Canada are one of her greatest sources of wealth in themselves alone and in addition they protect another great source of income, the water powers, by preserving in undiminished volume the streams in which they originate.

The convention was auspiciously opened by His Excellency Earl Grey yesterday morning in the presence of nearly five hundred people. The scene was the railway committee room of the House of Commons, which had been appropriately decorated by the exhibition branch of the Department of Agriculture. Sir Wilfrid Laurier presided, being accompanied on the platform by Sir Frederick Borden, Hon. Sydney Fisher, Hon. Frank Oliver, Mr. R. L. Borden, Mr. E. Stewart and Mr. E. G. Joly de Lotbiniere.

The Governor-General opened with an excellent speech. A very forceful sentence of his was:

"Though my experience in Canada has been comparatively short, it has yet been sufficient to impress me with the urgent desirability of focussing the best brains of the Dominion on the immediate reforestation of what shall be done with regard to our forests in order to protect the soil upon which the maintenance of our agriculture depends."

Earl Grey said he had seen in India, Asia Minor, Greece and Italy extensive tracts of country reduced to the misery of barren desolation by unregulated deforestation by a selfish generation. It was the object of the convention to fix the attention of the Canadian people on the warning which these and other countries hold out.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier in commencing business made an address excellent in its language and intention. He welcomed those from the United States, the representatives of provincial governments, delegates from railway and lumber firms and others. Their presence was an evidence of the great need of preserving the forests. The premier touched upon the great destroyer of forest wealth, fire, often the result of mischief, and really criminal. It would be a good thing, the speaker said, if railways had patrols along their lines to suppress fires before they became too strong. Sir Wilfrid noted with satisfaction the attention given to tree planting in the new provinces, particularly in Winnipeg.

Mr. R. L. Borden and Hon. Frank Oliver also gave introductory speeches.

A feature of the proceedings was a splendid address by Mr. Gifford Pinchot, chief of the United States forestry service, who predicted a lumber famine in the near future. In its relation to agriculture, Mr. Pinchot said forestry was always a help. Though it had begun late the United States was now giving special attention to

the preservation of its forests. A campaign to this effect had been begun in the schools and on the public schools. Further, an endowment had been secured for a chair of lumbering at Yale, and forest reservations were being set apart altogether distinct from the public lands. An endeavor was being made to have these looked after by professional men.

At the afternoon session Mr. E. Stewart, superintendent of forestry, spoke upon Forestry on Dominion Lands. He began with statistics. The Dominion Government controlled 2,600,000 square miles of land, he said. Of these the bare prairie occupied 250,000 square miles and about 1,000,000 square miles were barren. Taking these from the total left 1,400,000 square miles of country more or less wooded. At least one-fifth of this contained wood suitable for commerce. Mr. Stewart spoke of the necessity of the great sources of water supply being kept in forest. If the eastern slope of the Rockies were to be denuded, he said, there would be a foaming torrent in spring and a dried up river bed afterwards. Such deforestation would destroy the north and south Saskatchewan and the Athabasca and Peace rivers.

At the evening session speeches were made by Hon. Sydney Fisher, Mr. Pierce and Mr. J. S. Dennie, of the C.P.R., and Mr. Cecil B. Smith, of the Temiskaming Railway, who spoke upon water powers. He suggested the electrical operation of railways as a means of prevention of fires from this source.

This morning session was given over to papers by agricultural experts. Dr. Saunders, director of experimental farms, spoke on forestry. He said the farms had paid attention to the subject since 1888. At the Central Experimental Farm experiments had been tried in planting five feet and ten feet apart. It was found that those most distant from each other grew thicker and the closer ones taller. Many young trees were sent from the farms to the Northwest for the use of settlers and had been very successful. The farm at Brandon did a good work in sending out seedling trees to be planted around the settlers' homes. The farm at Indian Head had established the value of hedges for protecting crops against storms. The Argosy Farm in British Columbia was also doing excellent work.

Rev. A. E. Burke, of Alberton, P.E.I., gave an interesting address upon the farms for forestry of the eastern provinces. Prince Edward Island, he stated, is suffering from the destruction of the forests. At present it has to buy the necessary timber and fuel from other provinces. Though but a few years ago covered with forest it has suffered from the axe, the torch, men's stupidity, and the thoughtlessness of the government.

Mr. Norman Ross spoke on the tree planting efforts on the prairie and stated his belief that each farmer should set aside 20 acres for growing timber. He praised the good work of the experimental farms.

Mr. E. Zavitz, who lectures on forestry at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, read a paper on the Agricultural Forest Problem. It referred to the subject as seen in Ontario. He pointed out the inherent desire of farmers to clear up their farms. They often destroyed valuable timber, not knowing its worth. He replied to the question often raised, that this is an agricultural country and should not be devoted to forest

raising by saying that even in England there was much waste land and he did not believe for one moment that all the land would be required for raising food stuffs. Forest raising, moreover, proved just as remunerative. In some parts of Ontario, the speaker stated, fuel is dearer than in Germany. All fine woods, once plentiful in the province, are being imported from other countries. Mr. Zavitz said that it was quite practical to set apart land for the raising of trees for both timber and fuel. He continued that it was the policy of the Ontario Government to co-operate with the farmers in improving the conditions in regard to forestry and he believed that by a systematic work the conditions would soon be greatly improved.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Hemorrhoids or Piles

What is wrong with my young pig? He appears to have piles. His rectum protrudes and bleeds profusely. He is fed on milk and slops from the house and is kept in a fairly dry place.—Subscriber, Que.

Pigs often suffer from this malady resulting generally from too constipating a diet. When very severe, piles must be removed by burning them off with a red hot searing iron. Milder cases will recover on a laxative diet with local application of a suitable ointment such as camphor and opium ointment. Feed the pig some boiled flaxseed with each feed and let his have a few raw potatoes every day.

Chronic Cough

I have a young mare with a chronic cough. She is in good condition. I gave her of tar, which helped her for a time; but when I discontinued the oil of tar the cough gradually became worse again.

2. I have another mare that swells in the off hind leg when standing in the stable. The swelling goes down when she works. She seems to favor this leg by resting on the other a good deal.—Subscriber.

1. Take two ounces of podotidie, eight ounces syrup of squill, and sufficient water to make sixteen ounces. Mix together and give one ounce three or four times a day.

2. Phlebitis or chronic inflammation in the veins of the leg is the cause of this. Wash the leg for five minutes with cold water after work in the evening, and then rub it dry with wisps of hay. Give daily work or exercise and don't overfeed.

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