

4 GEORGE V., A. 1914

small capital, strength and courage, and in the end fail to make a living. Secondly, this poor land unfit for cultivation, will be protected from fire and used for the growing of timber.

The policy of forest reservation is somewhat different in British Columbia. In the region where there is a danger of settlers locating on land which will prove disappointing, the land is first classified by the Forest Branch. Land which is found to be distinctly non-agricultural is not opened up for settlement, but is held under reserve by the Government. Such lands held under reserve are administered for the production of timber.

By Mr. Best:

Q. How would the expense in regard to the cost of taking off the timber in British Columbia compare with that in Ontario?—A. Do you mean the logging cost?

Q. Yes.—A. I am not very familiar with the logging cost in Ontario, but on the coast of British Columbia the logging and milling are two separate operations. In most cases the logger pays his stumpage, puts his logs into the water and sells them in Vancouver on the log market to the mill men. Logs sell in Vancouver at present for about \$6 to \$6.50 for No. 3 logs; \$8.50 to \$9.50 for No. 2 logs; and there is generally a spread of \$11 to \$12.50 for No. 1 logs.

Q. That is a thousand feet?—A. Yes, British Columbia scale. The cost of logging varies at the coast from \$4, on an exceptionally good logging chance, to \$7.50 or \$8 per thousand, and then there is a dollar to be added to that on the average for towing to the mill. In the interior of British Columbia where the logs are very often railroaded or driven to the mill the cost of logging varies in very few cases probably \$4.50 or \$6 to as high as \$10 per thousand. That cost is based on the Doyle scale. A lot of the logs are very small, so that it does not cost that much per thousand lumber scale.

By Mr. Charlton:

Q. What is the regular length for logs according to British Columbia scale?—

A. At the present time anything that is over forty feet British Columbia scale, is scaled as two logs, but we are not taking any particular interest in the length of the logs, except that we would like to get the operators to vary their log lengths so that they would take them out as high in the tree as possible instead of leaving a twelve or twenty foot stick in the tree.

Q. The British Columbia log scale implies logs thirty-two feet long, measured at the top end?—A. I misunderstood your question. That is the case. Most logs taken out on the coast are thirty-two feet long.

I do not know whether you would be interested in any of the features of the royalty legislation which was passed this winter, or whether you have already heard about it or not.

The CHAIRMAN.—The committee would like to have an explanation of it.

The WITNESS.—The Government adopted a new principle in the Timber Royalty Bill which passed the Legislature during the recent session. The timber industry is most important to the people and to the Government themselves in view of the fact that the revenue is \$3,000,000 from the Forest Branch alone. It did not seem fair to raise the royalty unless lumber prices improved, and unless the lumbermen were making more profit. On the other hand, while the Government would be perfectly willing to make and fix the royalty from year to year, just as the conditions at that time warranted, the lumbermen could not, as you are aware, finance on that kind of an arrangement. If he wished to borrow money, as many lumbermen in British Columbia and elsewhere do, to build mills, or carry timber, or carry on a manufacturing business, he would have to be able to show his creditors what kind of a title he had to standing timber. A compromise was therefore arrived at which provided that an increase which should be made this year would take effect next January; that that increase which