

APPENDIX No. 6

British Columbia it does not form 10 per cent of the forest. In that section there is not 10 per cent suitable for aeroplane purposes and, when cut, if left for a short time in that climate it becomes blue and marked.

By the Chairman:

Q. It is then useless for the purpose?—A. It is useless for all purposes except for common lumber, lumber of a low grade, and you could not afford to pay freight on it.

By Mr. Mowat:

Q. What became of that unused stuff?—A. They sold as much of it as they could but there was no market for anything like the whole of it. As I say, when it became all blue you could not sell it at all.

By Mr. Charters:

Q. How long has your commission been in operation?—A. A little over nine years.

By Mr. Mowat:

Q. We have heard a number of deputy ministers and heads of departments and have tried to get an explanation of the enormous percentage of absentees on compassionate grounds or on the score of illness?—A. We have been operating under exceptionally favourable conditions. We have in our hands the power of dismissal so far as the temporary staff is concerned. Now if I found that any clerk was abusing his leave of absence, I watched until I was absolutely certain, then I said "Your employment terminates at the end of the present month."

By Mr. Charters:

Q. Did you have many?—A. I say if you wish to enforce discipline, the two primary things are, first, power of dismissal, and secondly, exercise it when you are absolutely certain you are right. You only want to make an example of one or two. I have dismissed I suppose not more than five or six.

Q. Out of how many?—A. That would be very hard to say.

Q. What is your staff now?—A. Roughly I think 42.

By Mr. Mowat:

Q. You believe in giving the head of the department the right to run his department?—A. Most emphatically. If you have the right man at the head you have efficiency.

Q. You would give the right of appeal I suppose?—A. Certainly. But the head wants to feel that no consideration, except consideration of justice, will put that clerk back.

The committee adjourned.

MONDAY, June 16, 1919.

The committee met at 11 a.m. o'clock, Mr. Steele in the Chair.

Major STANLEY B. CORISTINE, SWORN:

By the Chairman:

Q. What is your position in the Civil Service?—A. I am a Commissioner of the Board of Pension Commissioners, and also acting as secretary for the time being.

Q. Since when?—A. I was secretary since May, 1917, appointed Commissioner in February, 1919.

Q. Were you the first secretary?—A. I was first secretary.

[Major Stanley B. Coristine.]