

## CONFIDENCE IN FEDERAL POLICY

### BANKS FREELY ACCEPT TIMBER LICENCES Lumberman With Extensive Findings Heard by Forestry Commission.

(From Wednesday's Daily.)  
By far the most interesting session of the timber and forestry commission up to date was held yesterday afternoon when the evidence of M. J. Scanlon, of Minneapolis, a member of the Brooks-Scanlon Lumber Company, was given. Mr. Scanlon is a logger and lumberman of very wide experience. He has operated practically all over the continent and he gave information regarding almost every state in the union and province of Canada. The members of the commission showed that they were intensely interested in his evidence by the fact that they questioned and cross-examined him on every conceivable phase of the lumbering and logging question.

One of the features of Mr. Scanlon's evidence was his iteration of the statement that bankers and other financial interests look with confidence on the leases granted by the Dominion government, whereas they view with suspicion the provincial leases, even though one is not much more favorable than the other in its phrasing. Hon. Mr. Fulton tried to obtain the reason for this difference, and the only assumption was that the financial interests had more faith in the government of the Dominion than in that of the province.

Mr. Scanlon, whose company operates at two points in British Columbia, several points in Nova Scotia and other places, was the only witness examined. He said his company had approximately 100,000 acres of timber lands in this province.

In the Bahamas the company has three million acres on a ninety-nine year lease, on which they paid \$300 a year. In Florida, where he also has lands, the land is held absolutely, the taxes being about \$50 an acre without royalty. In Minnesota, Wisconsin and practically all the states, the land is owned outright. In isolated cases the government owns the timber.

In Minnesota the taxes vary, depending on local development. The state tax was simply nominal. There were no royalties in any of the states.

In Oregon the tax was 10c an acre, but that was higher than the average in that state. In California they paid about 50c an acre, but there it varied considerably.

Taking up the matter of conservation Mr. Scanlon did not think much could be done in the matter of reforestation except to keep the fire out. If the debris were burned it would destroy too much of the soil. He thought the government being a partner in the lands should share the cost of protecting them from fire.

In the matter of length of tenure he thought it very injurious to have the present short tenure. The Dominion leases were always regarded more favorably than provincial ones. Being an interested party he objected to having to pay more to the province than to the Dominion. He thought that if the annual tax were reduced to a nominal sum the forests would be better conserved.

In the matter of borrowing money, the banks were always glad to take Dominion leases as collateral, but the provincial leases were regarded rather as a liability than an asset.

Speaking of the matter of fire protection, he favored the government doing the work and charging half the amount to the operators. There had not been, so far as he knew, any organized effort to prevent fires in the United States except in the matter of patrol. If there was an outbreak the warden could call on anyone to help him in the same way a police constable could.

In answer to Hon. Mr. Fulton, Mr. Scanlon said he held a large number of provincial leases. He was not afraid to invest in these owing to the shortness of tenure. In the United States they owned many lands most of which were bought at public sales or at the ruling price to the government.

In Minnesota the price of standing timber, continued Mr. Scanlon, is close upon ten dollars a thousand. In Wisconsin the price would be rather higher owing to it being of a better grade. In Oregon the price varied from 50c to \$2.50. In Louisiana the price was \$4, and in Florida about \$3.

In the United States there were three methods of selling lands. One was the valuing of the lands and selling to the buyer at that valuation; another was selling of Indian lands by public auction; and the third the giving of lands to the railways in return for scrip issued by them.

Hon. F. J. Fulton said that in 1905 the lumbermen came to the provincial government and asked for certain changes, as the banks would not finance on their leases. The changes were made, but according to the evidence the banks still refused to regard them of value. He would like to know why the Dominion leases were looked upon with favor when they were held only from year to year, whereas the provincial were held for 21 years.

Mr. Scanlon thought the reason for this was because the Dominion had never made changes in their leases. There was a stability about them which the others did not possess.

In the matter of log export, Mr. Scanlon thought it wise for the lumber to be manufactured at home. The additional duty on shingles which amounted to \$6 per thousand on logs, made it prohibitive to send shingles to the United States and this would undoubtedly work a hardship.

Speaking of the tax of \$140 a square mile on the timber, Mr. Scanlon said it was very high. It was a higher price than was paid anywhere else in the

world. He also thought it would be highly desirable and in the interests of the country generally to make the leases more permanent.

Mr. Scanlon said his company were at present only engaged in logging in this province, but later they expected to erect mills and go into the export lumber business.

In answer to Mr. Goodeve, Mr. Scanlon said the quality of timber in this province was better than in Minnesota. The amount of timber per acre in Oregon was about the same as in British Columbia.

Mr. Goodeve asked a number of follow-up questions which Mr. Scanlon found it impossible to answer, as they were more or less of a political nature. He expressed his willingness as an owner, however, to co-operate with the government and to pay his share of the cost of protecting the timber limits. The commission then adjourned until this morning.

The principal evidence given before the timber and forestry commission this morning was that of R. H. Campbell, superintendent of forestry for the Dominion government, who is in the city on his way home from the convention at Spokane. He told of the work that was being done in his department. The setting aside of forest reserves for the protection of watersheds, the preservation of game and the use of the public lands as features of the work. These reserves were under the charge of a regular staff who also did a good deal of experimental work in connection with them. As much of this work was in its early stages it was not possible to give many of the results.

Mr. Campbell also said that the whole of the Dominion forests were under a system of patrol with a chief ranger in each district. In this way they had been able to wage a successful fight against fires. A good deal of information was also given in connection with the regulations of the transcontinental railway commission and the railway commission.

E. E. Billingham suggested to the commission the desirability of preserving the forests on the watershed of the irrigation works in the dry belt. The trees prevented evaporation, which was at all times great. He promised that the engineer of the British Columbia Development Association should give expert evidence along these lines at Kamloops.

J. A. Sayward confirmed the statements of other lumbermen, except in the matter of hand loggers' licenses. The hand loggers he thought were unfavourably treated, as the license specified a certain place for operation, and if this was changed a new license had to be taken out.

R. H. Campbell, superintendent of forestry for the department of the interior of the Dominion government, said he had held his present position for the past three years, although for eight years past he had been occupied in forestry.

The most important work of his department was the prevention of fires. In each district they had a chief ranger who had charge of the patrols. The patrols were expected to move through the district regularly, and he kept a diary which was forwarded regularly to the chief ranger and on to the department.

The different districts were patrolled, according to the danger. Along the lines of railway more rangers were needed than in the more remote districts.

The preventive work, along education lines, was one of the most important departments of the ranger's work. It was his duty to post notices and to impress upon campers and others the dangers of lighting the forest.

When a fire was started the ranger put it out himself if he possibly could, but if too large other men were impressed into the service.

The matter of forest reserves also came under his department. Mr. Campbell said. Eleven thousand acres had already been set aside for the purpose of protecting watersheds, providing timber for future use, and also game and park reserves. The boundaries of these are being clearly marked and this line was found useful in the fighting of fires. Iron posts were being erected along these lines.

A permanent force of rangers is being organized to have charge of these reserves and during the winter they work at the ordinary forestry business. A survey is being made of each reserve and maps prepared. The work is not very far advanced, but is going on and will in time be completed. The survey is giving valuable information in the matter of reproduction. In some cases it was found that the forest trees reproduced themselves. The Douglas fir was not found to reproduce as well as Jack pine and the spruce was worse than that. The examination in British Columbia, however, had not been thoroughly made in this respect.

When fire goes through the forest it often has the effect of destroying reproduction. Experimental work was being done both in planting and seeding. The rangers in other tones in the autumn and these are shipped to the

experimental farm at Indian Head. The young trees have to be shaded from the sun, as direct sunlight will often kill them. Only a very small experiment has been made so far in the matter of planting. This had cost about seven dollars an acre. Two and three year trees were planted, but the youngest did best.

In seeding, the seed was sometimes scattered broadcast, but this was a very wasteful method. It must come in contact with soil in order to grow. Experiments along this line only commenced just last fall. In some of the states the method had worked out well.

Another method was to stir up the earth at points a few feet apart, another man following to drop a few seeds and press the soil down with his foot. The experiments had been varied. On the open prairie it had not been done better. It was the intention to continue the experiments until the best plans had been proved.

The matter of cutting on the reserves had been required by the forester were allowed to be cut. A trained man went over the ground and made the selection. The young growth was protected as much as possible, and the brush was piled for burning or scattered on the ground to rot.

In regard to the granting of timber licenses on the Dominion lands, the licensee had the right to the timber as long as merchantable timber remains on the land. He has really a perpetual right to the land. The regulations provide that no timber under ten inches on the stump should be cut, and the government have power to change the regulations if found necessary.

Logging methods he thought might be improved in order to leave the land in better condition for reproduction. There was danger in burning up the debris both on account of the danger of starting a fire that would spread and also on account of the loss of the young growth. The department was now experimenting but it would take some time to arrive at satisfactory conditions. It would be unsatisfactory to make regulations until the best methods had been proved.

In answer to Mr. Fulton Mr. Campbell said there were 30 rangers out last year in British Columbia. The cost of a patrol was about one cent an acre and the lumbermen were called upon to pay about half of that amount.

In the matter of fuel, anthracite coal would be less dangerous than any other. In the Adirondacks the United States government raised the railway ways to use oil fuel in order to avoid the possibility of fire from sparks. Mr. Campbell read from the regulations made by the railway commission in regard to the non-use of lignite coal and the use of guards to prevent sparks. The Railway Act also provided for the keeping clear of the right of way from inflammable material.

A set of regulations made by the National Transcontinental Commission in the construction work provides for the cutting up of trees and destroying of debris and providing in every way for the protection of the railways. The forests were read. Inspectors were appointed on all new construction work and half the cost charged up against the contractor.

In later years Mr. Campbell said, the price of Dominion timber in this province was as high as \$500 a square mile. This was sold in open competition.

In answer to Mr. Flumenfeldt, Mr. Campbell said he thought co-operation between the two governments would be a great advantage.

As the Dominion government was spending a good deal of money both in experimental work and also in fire protection and as the provincial lands were often contiguous to the Dominion lands, one meant a fire in the other, would it not be a great advantage for the governments to co-operate? This Mr. Campbell thought might be effective.

In answer to Mr. Goodeve, Mr. Campbell said it took from 50 to 80 years for the average tree to come to sufficient maturity to be ready to cut.

Needs of Irrigation.

E. E. Billingham, assistant of the British Columbia Development Association, suggested to the commission the desirability of preserving the timber in the dry belt. The lands in those districts were being irrigated and devoted to horticulture. Waters were being stored in the lakes of the district which during the dry season was drained to the lower lands as required. The water from the lake evaporated, and when the shores of the lakes were denuded of timber, the evaporation increased considerably. He suggested that these lake reservoirs should be protected by allowing the timber to remain as well as the banks of the canals draining them. This was a serious matter both for the irrigation companies and for the horticulturists, who had bought the lands.

Mr. Fulton suggested that if there were any concrete examples Mr. Billingham put in a statement of them as the commission proposed to deal with the question.

Mr. Billingham said that he would be ready to give the commission a sketch plan and would also like their engineers to meet the commission at Kamloops.

In answer to Mr. Harvey, Mr. Billingham said he thought it would be advisable to have a wide belt of timber around the reservoirs. The companies always allowed fifty per cent. for evaporation and seepage. The irrigation companies were only too glad to co-operate with the government in the matter of fire protection. The absence of fire in the past he attributed largely to there being but few Indians in the district.

Cost of Clearing Land.

Joseph Ducrest said he had been clearing land in the province for the last three years. The cost of clearing average land he put at from \$100 to \$125 an acre. He had already cleared in the neighborhood of 1,000 acres. It had been made ready for ploughing. He used horse power in the work, getting the high power by means of levers. In that way they were able to haul out the big stumps.

Mr. Ducrest said he had been over a good deal of Vancouver Island, and he thought one-third of it was fit for agriculture.

J. A. Sayward Examined.

Joseph A. Sayward expressed the opinion that the protection from fire was the most important phase of the

commission's work. The lumbermen would be quite willing to pay their share of this. While he had not had occasion to finance on provincial licenses, he thought it would be a difficult matter owing to the shortness of tenure. The Dominion leases were better, in that they were renewable as long as there was merchantable timber on them. Speaking of the burning of debris, Mr. Sayward said he thought it would be very expensive to burn the debris as well as extremely dangerous.

Mr. Sayward objected to any general plan for the export of logs from the province. It was desirable, however, that cedar logs should be allowed to be exported, as the home demand did not meet the supply.

Mr. Sayward objected to the restrictions put upon hand loggers. A license had to be paid for a certain district, and as soon as they wanted to give a new license had to be taken out.

In the matter of fractional sections, Mr. Sayward, in reply to the chairman, advised putting these up by tender. He stated, in answer to Mr. Plumerfeldt, that he did not think the matter of high or low rental affected the matter of cutting. A man would not cut more than there was a market for.

If holders of leases were obliged to put in mills in order to develop their limits Mr. Sayward thought it would keep the timber lands out of the hands of speculators, and that would be a desirable thing. If cutting regulations were in force, however, it would flood the country with logs which the terebo would destroy. This would benefit nobody.

### BUYS TIMBER ON THE WEST COAST

Pennsylvania Lumberman Secures Thirty-eight Sections.

Vancouver, Aug. 17.—F. L. Peek, of Scranton, Pa., president of the Mississippi Central railway, and president of the United States Lumber Company, who visited this city last week, has purchased 38 timber sections in the Renfrew district, on the west coast of Vancouver Island, from W. E. Simpson, a banker of Iowa Falls, Iowa, at present a guest at the Hotel Vancouver. The consideration was \$200,000. Mr. Peek has not yet formulated his plans, but may erect a sawmill next year. He is likely to invest additional capital in British Columbia timber lands.

The area just sold is mostly cedar, but also includes some pine. Its favorable location will greatly facilitate logging and milling operations. The standing timber is estimated to total seven hundred million feet.

Building permits this month are slow in coming in, the total so far is only about \$20,000. Permits were issued yesterday afternoon to McPherson & Fullerton for a house on Beachwood avenue, to cost \$2,300; to R. Hall for additions, to cost \$200 on a dwelling on May street, and to Chon Tong Ork for a house on Curran street, to cost \$1,750.

For the Old Boys' Re-Union at Montreal in September, the Northern Pacific Railway Company has made a low-round the excursion rate of \$105. Tickets will be on sale September 8th, good for 12 days going and good until October 31st, final return limit. Stopovers are allowed in both directions. On September 8th the Northern Pacific railway will sell excursion tickets to Chicago and return at \$2.50 rate, and again on October 4th.

Mr. Taylor, of H. M. S. Egeria, left for Victoria by Thursday's boat. He reports good sport at Oyler river, having taken over fifty trout.

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### PROSPECTOR FINDS OLD MINING STAKE Probably Marks Claim Which Was Located Forty Years Ago.

Nelson, Aug. 17.—"Joseph Morgan, June 8, 1869," reads a mining stake which was discovered close to the old Dewdney trail between Summit and Sheep creeks by John J. Campbell, the veteran prospector, who has just returned to the city after staking, with Price Macdonald, another well known mining man, a group of seventeen claims in the district mentioned, the old stake referred to being one of them.

There is, according to Mr. Campbell, only one way of accounting for this stake, which is almost ten inches square with the name and date cut in it, and that is that it is one of the location marks of a mineral claim. Before the time inscribed on the stake placer mining had had its rise and fall in the Kootenay country. Millions had been taken out in this way, and it is possible that one, at least, of the men whom the yellow metal had attracted to this country was seized with an idea of the possibilities of lode mining in that particular district. Sheep creek and Summit creek camps, which now, forty years later are only being opened. There is, he admits, the possibility that the stake marks a lonely grave where lie the remains of one of the country's pioneers, but Mr. Campbell says there are no indications of a grave and he points out that the stake corresponds to the idea of a claim stake.

Messrs. Campbell and Macdonald think they have struck it rich in the claims which they have located. Some exceedingly fine ore was found on some of the properties, averaging samples going between \$75 and \$80 and others away above this.

### HAY CROP LIGHT IN COMOX VALLEY Is About Third Less Than Last Year's—Grain Suffers From Rain.

Comox, Aug. 17.—Farmers are much disappointed with the hay crop, which is reckoned about one-third less than last year's crop. Standing grain has suffered much from the recent heavy rain, though roots have benefited by it. The first crop is very thin throughout the district.

Mr. and Mrs. Banow, of North Saanich, have gone to Campbell river in their launch.

Mr. Arbuthnot and party have left for Squash, intending to stop over at Campbell river for some fishing.

Maxwell Smith has purchased a property from J. R. Miller, embracing 97 acres. It is understood that he intends to cut it up into lots. The property is near Little River about four miles from Comox wharf.

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### DISTRICT MEETING. Foresters Elect Officers at Gathering at Nanaimo.

Nanaimo, Aug. 17.—The meeting of Columbia District Court A. O. F. assembled this morning. Brother Gray presiding.

The good of the order committee reported congratulating the district on the growth of the order. The finance committee presented its report, dealing with the receipts and expenditures for the past year and assessments for the present year.

After the transaction of the regular business the election of officers resulted thus: District sub-chief ranger, G. Heslop, Nicola; district secretary, John Woodcock, Victoria; district treasurer, John Grace, Victoria; junior past chief ranger, W. G. Gray, Vancouver; the retiring district chief ranger.

On assembling at 7 p. m., Past District Chief Ranger A. J. Manson, of Victoria, installed the officers for the ensuing term. Next year's district meeting will be held in Vancouver.

### BUSY TIMES AT FRASER CANNERIES

Twelve Thousand Men, Women and Children Employed on Lower River.

Steveston, Aug. 17.—This busy fishing town, on the banks of the Fraser, is now assuming the "four-year" appearance. All canneries are running full time and the expectation of an extension from the government for two weeks makes the cannery men assured of securing at least a two-thirds pack. The salmon were late arriving and are running in "schools," some fishermen obtaining "the limit" and others but a few.

A large number of tourists visit the canneries. The Sunday evening crowd line the wharves when the fishermen "pull out" to await the 6 o'clock signal for commencing to cast their nets.

Few fatalities have occurred so far. Two white fishermen and one Japanese have lost their lives.

The price of salmon was reduced to ten cents on August 1st, and inside labor is paid for at the rate of thirty cents an hour.

A larger number of whites, Hindus and Japanese are employed in the canneries than were engaged in former years. In two canneries white girls are employed. Japanese women fill many positions.

Steveston has been more orderly than in former years. Chief of Police Harris insists on the suppression of gambling and vice of any description.

The various canneries on the lower Fraser give employment to 12,000 men, women and children. At night the river, with its myriads of lights, presents the appearance of a large city.

J. P. Babcock, deputy commissioner of fisheries, will leave for the upper waters of the Fraser river at the end of this week. He will inspect the spawning beds and also investigate a number of new beds which have not yet been reported upon, and make notes on them.