

The Merit System.

Two Special Committees presented reports. For the committee of three appointed last year to take up with the Dominion Government the matter of extending the scope of the Civil Service Act to cover the outside service of the Dominion Forestry Branch, Mr. Ellwood Wilson, convenor, stated that through correspondence the views of the Association on the merit system in public appointments had been brought before the Government of British Columbia, the Premier of which, Hon. Mr. Brewster, had pledged himself to build up the Forest Service without regard to the old patronage plan and had made an excellent commencement by the appointment of Mr. M. A. Grainger to the post of Chief Forester.

The Secretary reported for the Committee of Ten, appointed to take up with the Provincial Governments of Eastern Canada the matter of the collection and publication of uniform statistics of forest fire losses. This committee, consisting of Messrs. Leavitt, Goodeve, Prettie, Zavitz, Piche, W. F. V. Atkinson, Dwight, R. B. Miller, Grainger and Finlayson, had tried to stimulate the collection of accurate statistics by the private limit holders of Ontario, issuing a special statistical form for that purpose. A good deal of success was secured and a fresh effort will be made in 1917 to have the response more general.

Slash Disposal.

Mr. Ellwood Wilson introduced to the meeting a new field in which he thought the Association ought to be active. He advocated the formation of a committee or committees on slash disposal, also to encourage co-operation between all those interested in forestry. He thought slash disposal was worth all its cost. The benefits of co-operation of forestry activities were so extensive and so practical that the Association might well take the matter in hand. A third avenue of investigation and discussion was the taxation of forest-planted lands. Mr. Wilson moved

that a committee be appointed to take action.

Mr. Clyde Leavitt called attention to an anomalous situation on licensed timber berths in relation to the technical administration of Dominion Crown Lands. Questions of diameter limits, selection of seed trees, and brush disposal were not being given consideration as was emphatically necessary in the country's best interests.

Mr. W. B. Snowball said that his forester, (Mr. J. R. Gareau) had reported that he would experiment for next season in slash disposal by establishing an experimental camp, trying the burning of slash. At present the lopping of boughs was the general procedure.

Mr. P. Z. Caverhill, Forester of New Brunswick, said that the stands were lighter and brush disposal costs heavier in New Brunswick than would be true of some other parts of Canada. Brush disposal would cost from 25 to 50 cents per thousand feet if done in the winter months.

Mr. Leavitt moved, seconded by Mr. Prettie, that a committee of five be appointed, with Mr. Ellwood Wilson as Chairman, and that the latter select the other members of the committee subject to the consent of the incoming president. Mr. Wilson's committee was afterwards entered as follows: Messrs. H. R. MacMillan, R. D. Prettie, Clyde Leavitt, T. W. Dwight, Ellwood Wilson (Chairman).

The Afternoon Addresses.

A large audience attended the afternoon meetings, attracted by a group of addresses dealing with vital questions. The excellent paper on "The Control of White Pine Blister Rust," by H. T. Gussow, Dominion Botanist, which is reproduced, in part, in this issue was supplemented by papers from G. C. Piche, Chief Forester of Quebec, and E. J. Zavitz, Chief Forester of Ontario. The latter speakers presented a thorough review of the steps taken by the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario to locate the menoc and prevent infections from spreading.

In the absence of Mr. T. J. Welsh of Bemidji, Minnesota, who was de-