

to lieutenant-governorships, and to various other places of great trust and dignity can be made only by Government and in these political considerations will always be more or less influential. But it is seldom that scandal arises out of this class of appointments. It is not here that the chief evils of patronage exist. They lie in general partisan control of the outside service, in the activity of patronage committees, in the management of party caucuses and party conventions by the office hunting element.

It is true that all the evils of our politics will not be eradicated by the establishment of a permanent, non-partisan civil service

and the disappearance of patronage as a stimulus to political activity. But there would be a great increase of independent action in the constituencies. Public men would be relieved from dependence upon the mercenary element which now exercises a baneful authority in the political organizations. The civil service would be greatly strengthened in character and efficiency. The independence of Parliament would be materially enhanced, and the great and serious problems of administration and high political debate upon broad questions of policy and principle would become the chief business of statesmen.

Ontario Forests

Extracts from the Report of the Minister of Lands Forests and Mines.

The importance of the forests of Ontario to the welfare of the Province and the Dominion are brought out in a few figures in the report of Hon. W. H. Hearst, Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines, for 1912, which has recently been issued.

'The revenue collected on account of woods and forests in 1912 was \$1,985,662.78, or \$274,225.91 in excess of the revenue collected last year (1911).'

'The principal increases were in timber dues \$166,673.37, and in bonus \$113,884.14.

'The mileage under license last year was 996 miles less than that of the previous year. The reason for this was that certain licensees had not paid up their ground rent or were indebted for dues, which prevented the issue of their licenses. 307 miles were also surrendered as having been cut out, and were withdrawn from license.

'The output of pine sawlogs, boom timber and square timber brought into feet board measure equalled 487,838,666 feet board measure, which is 96,425,439 feet below the output of 1911.

'The output of timber other than pine showed an increase of 24,093,160 feet over last year. There was also an increase in the pulpwood of 49,612 cords. The most notable expansion was in railway ties. The quantity taken out last year was 4,270,832 ties. The quantity taken out this year was 5,704,459 ties, showing an increased output for the year of 1,433,627 ties.

'Several berths in the Rainy River, Thunder Bay and Kenora Districts that had been damaged by fire or cut over in previous years were sold by tender.

'The only other timber sale held during the year was of two berths on the Jocko River, each having an area of 25 miles, which were in a dangerous position and on which the timber had reached its maturity, and it was considered wise to sell them so as

to get the value of the timber. The sale of this timber established a record for price. The pine timber on Berth No. 1 was sold for \$13.26 per thousand feet board measure in addition to \$2 dues; and the pine timber on Berth No. 2 was sold for \$12.10 per thousand feet board measure in addition to \$2 dues. In the disposal of these berths it was determined to insert a condition in the terms of sale requiring the licensees to remove all limbs, brush, and other debris arising from the lumbering operations under the direction of an officer appointed by the Department of Lands, Forests and Mines. A deposit was required of \$1,000 per mile in each case, which deposit is held as security for the performance of all conditions of sale. The Forester for the Province, Professor Zavitz, was requested to visit the locality, and a special ranger was placed in charge of the cutting to see that the conditions with respect to the disposal of the debris were carried out. The timber will be culled and measured by scalers appointed by the Department.'

'There were on duty last summer (1912) in forest reserves 228 fire rangers; on railways 193; on lands of the Crown 111; which with 10 chiefs makes a total of 542 fire rangers employed.

'The timber licensees are required to place rangers on their limits and pay them. Under this arrangement there were on duty on licensed lands during the summer 350 rangers and 8 supervisors, making a total staff in the forest last summer of 900.'

Among the cost figures given are: wood ranging \$91,753; exploration of timber berths \$1,062; fire ranging \$124,483; forest reserves protection \$83,605. These figures make a total of \$300,903 for this part of the work in Ontario in 1912, and of course they do not include the amounts paid by the timber licensees for their 350 rangers.