

point to what we have done in the way of field work or to give interesting information or statistics concerning our British Columbia forests. The work has been vigorously begun, and I can only tell you what we are doing and what we expect to achieve

ORGANIZATION

Starting from the obvious truth that forest laws, regulations, government policies and all the varieties of office work connected with the forests are vain and useless theories unless there exists an efficient forest service to give practical effect to them in the field, we are concentrating our attention most of all upon the organization of such a service. Up to now there have been a number of independent staffs dealing each with a different form of forest work. For purposes such as the supervision of cutting, the collection of royalties, and the prevention of trespass, the Province has been divided into five parts; for scaling purposes into two; for forest protection during the past season, into fifteen. The timber inspection staff has had no connection with the forest protection service, nor the latter with the scaling staff; and a heavy percentage of working power has consequently been lost. Moreover, the staff concerned with forest protection has been a temporary one, engaged each spring and discharged each fall; a circumstance which has not been in the interest of steady development.

Our administration, in fact, is at the present moment in much the same disconnected condition as that of the federal forests of the United States prior to the introduction of the District System of organization under Mr. Pinchot in 1908; and we are now at work recasting it upon much the same lines as those which have proved so thoroughly effective in the United States. Plans are now being drafted for the amalgamation into one service of the present staffs, and for the cutting up of the Province into a number of convenient divisions, each of which will be a complete unit for every form of forest work. This plan will enable us to give far closer attention to the needs of each locality, and everyone who knows the woods will understand that one interesting result of closer inspection will be a substantial increase to the public revenue that will do a great deal more than offset any extra cost that may be incurred.

WORK IN PROGRESS.

As you know, nine million acres of forest in this Province are subject to cutting rights held by licensees, nearly three million acres more are under lease or in private ownership, while an unknown area, which we are beginning to think is much larger than has been hitherto supposed remains in reserve in the hands of the Government. No systematic examination of these enormous areas has ever been attempted, and yet until we know what timber we have got and where it is, we cannot tell whether our way of handling it is sound business. Moreover, quite apart from the forestry side of the matter, we need to find out where timber land ends and agricultural land begins in each district, and also where timber is standing on agricultural land, before my Department can tell how to deal with applications to purchase and pre-empt; and this information can only be obtained at present by the expensive and dilatory method of sending out men to make special examinations whenever the need arises.

These considerations show you why we are now beginning the stock-taking of our forest resources. At the present moment eight parties are in the field in charge of competent men, nearly all of whom began their careers by graduating either from the Toronto or the Oxford Forest Schools. The survey work is being concentrated at first, to some extent, in the regions north of the Railway Belt, that will