

Doubtless the strain placed upon the country's resources has compelled many people to examine more closely national sources of income and in this way the forests have assumed an interest and importance previously withheld. Then, too, the greatly increased knowledge of the management of natural resources in the countries now at war has brought us to realize our unfavorable rate of progress in the application of forestry principles.

The Public Awakening

During the past year, the Canadian Forestry Association has taken advantage to the limit of its powers of the new opportunities for propagandist work. It is gratifying to find so many evidences that Governments, corporations, and individuals recognize the reasonableness of those objects for which the Association has long contended. The record of forestry progress in 1916 alone would justify our efforts during many years past. We should regard with much satisfaction the many signs of public awakening from coast to coast and look forward to a steady advance in forest conservation in years to come.

In all parts of the world the forest conservation movement advances or lags according to the local need for and valuation upon wood supplies and the profits from commercial exploitation of forest materials. The great stimulation to the news print paper manufacturing industry in Canada during the past year, due to an increased demand from the United States, has contributed a new basis of values to Canadian spruce and balsam forests. It has equally emphasized the gravity of our preventable forest fires and brings into the foreground of profitable propositions the replanting of cut-over and barren lands by pulp and paper companies, as well as by Governments.

The "Idea of Science"

Much importance may also be attached to the work of the Technical Section of the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association which has developed remarkably during the year.

The necessity for technical study of *industry*, wherein the Forest Products Laboratories at Montreal are now playing an important part, is recognized today as never before. We may reasonably look forward to the application of scientific methods to all industries engaged in wood manufacture, thereby achieving economy and efficiency from the woods operations through to the finished product.

Ontario's Move

The action of the Ontario Government in creating a new department of forest protection under the direction of the Provincial Forester, Mr. E. J. Zavitz, may be taken as the outstanding occurrence of the past year as far as concerns the objects of this Association. The Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines has definitely undertaken not only to re-organize the forest protection system which has been admittedly inefficient for a great many years, but to support the new department in the construction of permanent improvements for fire detection and fire fighting, and to bring before the Legislature a settlers' permit law, applying the plan of 'burning permits' to at least a portion of the timbered area. If thoroughly carried out, as we believe they will be, these provisions as announced by the Minister will tend to prevent periodical destruction of lives and great losses in forest wealth.

I may be permitted to say also, that while the Association pledges itself to support the Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines in carrying out his new policy of effective forest protection, we contend that our critical attitude towards the old system in Ontario and our campaigns to stimulate public sentiment to demand a thorough reform were altogether justified. The Association's work in Ontario has been an illustration of the need for just such an independent, unhampered body working in the public interest.

In New Brunswick.

The Government of New Brunswick has undertaken a forest survey and land classification scheme which