

Quebec, Hon. S. N. Parent; Keewatin, His Honour the Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba; Assiniboia, His Honour A. E. Forget; Alberta, Wm. Pearce; Athabasca, F. D. Wilson; British Columbia, Hon. H. Bostock; Manitoba, Hon. J. H. Agnew; Ontario, Hon. Nelson Monteith.

The Resolutions passed at the last Annual Meeting were transmitted to the Minister of Railways, to the Local governments and to others interested and were acknowledged with promises of consideration.

It may be noted that the Transcontinental Railway Commission, in calling for tenders for the construction of the Transcontinental Railway have included special requirements in regard to the protection of the forests along the route from fire, this being a question dealt with by one of the resolutions.

FOREST FIRES.

Forest fires caused considerable loss in different localities during the past year. In Nova Scotia one village was destroyed. In New Brunswick, Moncton was threatened and for a time the situation in several places was serious. In Quebec the smoke from fires interfered seriously at times with navigation on the St. Lawrence River. Ontario did not suffer heavily nor did the western provinces, except British Columbia. The weather conditions east of the Rocky Mountains during the early part of the season were such as not to require very close patrol service, but later it was found necessary to have the rangers continuously on duty. In British Columbia we seem to be passing through a cycle of dry seasons and that of 1905 was one that threatened the greatest destruction of timber. At one time it was feared that the whole of the valuable timber in the Shuswap country would be swept away, and for weeks a large body of men under the Dominion Fire Rangers were kept constantly fighting the fire with the result that only a small quantity of merchantable timber was destroyed. The Kootenay district seems to have suffered most heavily.

An important work to be done by the Dominion Government is the protection from fire of the large extent of northern forests, as settlement and railway construction extends into them.

TREE PLANTING.

The Dominion Government is continuing and extending the system of co-operation with the settlers in tree planting which was started in the year 1901. During the past season nearly two million trees were distributed to settlers on the bare prairie, and this spring (1906) a little over that number will be sent out, making a total distribution of about seven million trees, besides a considerable quantity of tree seeds.