# Advisory Committees to Aid Ontario and Quebec

Deep interest has been shown in the proposal emanating from the Canadian Forestry Association that an excellent purpose would be served in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec if the Ministers of Lands and Forests would call into consultation periodically committees of practical men capable of advising the Government on behalf of all the wood-using industries of either province. Such committees would not consist of nominees of the Canadian Forestry Association but of the lumber and pulp and paper industries. The application of the advisory council idea to Ontario and Quebec was suggested by the success of the advisory committees already functioning in British Columbia and New Brunswick. It is everywhere recognized that forestry legislation and changes in regulation must be workable and reasonable or they will bring about confusion in the relations between the forest service and the industries and hamper industrial development. Two reports explaining the progress of this proposal were presented at the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Forestry Association at Toronto as follows:

(1) Report of Committee appointed to interview Hon. Mr. Mercier, Minister of Lands and Forests of Quebec, re appointment of advisory committee.

In the absence from Quebec of Mr. W. G. Power, one of the Committee members nominated by our Directors, we asked Mr. R. P. Kernan, woods manager of the Baie St. Paul Lumber Company to accompany our deputation with Mr. Ellwood Wilson, Mr. B. M. Winegar, of the C.P.R. and the Secretary of the Canadian Forestry Association. A visit was paid to Hon. Mr. Taschereau and Hon. Mr. Mercier at Quebec on Wednesday, December 21st.

The Premier of Quebec, while broadly endorsing the principle of consultations with the wood-using industries after the manner of the Advisory Committees of British Columbia and New Brunswick, referred the deputation to his Minister of Lands and Forests.

Hon. Mr. Mercier gave us a careful hearing and frankly discussed the proposed Advisory Committee. The Minister was especially solicitous that he might avoid previous experiences whereby those whom he had consulted had not been able to speak with sufficient authority for the industries or limit holders as a body and thus consultation at times had only intensified his troubles as administrator.

The Minister stated finally that if the Canadian Forestry Association would undertake to have an Advisory Committee formed which could truly express the opinion of the pulp and paper industry, the lumber industry, and limit holders in all portions of the province, he would promise to call such committee into consultation before legislative or departmental changes affecting the timber industries are promulgated. The Minister's assurance was definite and the deputation felt fully satisfied with the results of the interview.

**Ontario Favorable.**

(2) Report on meeting of delegation of Canadian Forestry Association at Tor-