

This constitutional amendment gave the Federal Congress greater powers, but I do not suggest that here it is necessary that greater powers be given to our Federal Government—that is not what, in our case, is required. What we require is that we should proceed in the same businesslike and systematic way as Switzerland has done, and secure a clear and definite agreement, settling doubtful points and leaving the way open for systematic and progressive legislation, under which all development will be properly regulated in the interests of the people. If anyone doubts the necessity of such an arrangement, let him consider the position which we find existing to-day, under which the holders of a Dominion charter are claiming the right to exploit a stream in defiance of the Government of the Province, and municipalities have already been involved in litigation on the subject.

Forests—When the Federal Government established a small Forestry Branch a few years ago, it is said that there was not employed, at that time, in the Dominion of Canada a single educated forester. Since that time there has been progress. A number of skilled foresters are in the employ of the various Governments, and much careful and conscientious work is being done. Chairs of Forestry have been established, and many young men are qualifying themselves for scientific forestry. The Canadian Forestry Association, formed a few years ago, is constantly labouring to arouse public interest in the subject. Yet it must be said that, in regard to this, the greatest and most available field for the conservation of an important natural resource, the work is only beginning.

The outstanding and important fact is that, in the last ten years, enlightened public opinion has clearly grasped the necessity for the conservation of the forests, and we can rely upon such public opinion being unanimous in support of all well-considered measures having that end in view. Frequent public discussions during the last few years have rendered the main facts to be considered fairly familiar. I shall not burden my remarks with statistics upon the subject of our supply of merchantable timber. The figures obtainable at the present time are far from accurate or reliable. It is certain, however, that the quantity of merchantable timber in Canada, outside of British Columbia, is much less than was popularly supposed up to a short time ago. It will be one of our first duties to thoroughly sift and supplement the presently available statistics and prepare a full and reliable statement.

A few facts stand out very clearly:—

(1) Under the policy adopted by our Governments—Provincial and Dominion—the timber lands leased to operators are still subject