

# REFERENCE

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## CANADIAN FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

increased supervision that we were able to give to the patrol force, and the larger number of men on duty, that the economical handling of our fires in 1911 was partly due, though of course the weather in most parts of the province helped us greatly as well. The 257 fires that we fought that season cost us only \$30,000; the upkeep of the patrol force costing another \$112,000.

### PRELIMINARY WORK.

Forest protection for the current year having thus been provided for, the drafting of legislation and the search for suitable men for the staff of the future forest service were put in hand. This latter matter was one of considerable difficulty, for forestry is a profession that has only come to the front in recent years. The number of men who have taken it up is comparatively small, and it was by no means easy to find trained men who, in addition to their technical knowledge, possessed the sound judgment that comes from years of practical experience. Our forests have an immense importance to the Province from every point of view, and we felt that every possible effort should be made to secure the very best men available to manage them. After the most elaborate search, we had the good fortune last December to secure the assistance of Mr. Overton Price—Mr. Price as most people know being the man who organized the admirably efficient United States Forest Service in conjunction with Mr. Pinchot. In referring to Mr. Price I must express our great regret that a serious illness in his family prevents his attendance here today in his capacity of consultant forester to this Government.

### THE FOREST ACT.

In January last the Forest Bill was introduced before the Legislature and formed one of the main features of the session. Containing as it does a revision of the numerous acts that previously had dealt separately with one feature or another of forest administration, together with a good deal of new material, it is a somewhat bulky document of over fifty pages, and I can do no more than direct the attention of the convention to one or two points that will be referred to in the course of this paper.

The Forest Act became law just six months ago, and created the new Forest Branch of my Department supported by a vote of \$160,000 which, with the \$230,000 contributed by the holders of timber licenses and leases, by owners of timber lands, and by the Government to the Forest Protection Fund, will bring the total sum available to \$390,000 for the present fiscal year.

### THE FOREST BRANCH

Provided with legislative authority and the necessary funds, we set to work this spring to lay down the lines on which the new service could best be organized. It was decided, in the end, to divide it into four main sections—the office of Operation undertaking forest protection and land classification; the office of Management, handling timber sales, the supervision of logging, sealing the prevention of trespass and similar matters; the office of Records being in charge of all money matters, license and lease records, publicity, supplies and so forth; while the office of Surveys would be responsible for the general stock-taking of the forest resources of the province that we are so anxious to complete as soon as possible. Though experienced men to take over each of these sections had been secured and had been engaged in investigation work since April, it was June before the organization plans were finally approved, and mid-July before our Chief Forester had arrived and taken up his duties. You will therefore understand that I am unable at this convention to