

## MEETINGS OF THE BOTANICAL BRANCH.

February 20th, 1915, at the residence of Mr. R. B. Whyte. Mr. J. R. Dickson, of the Forestry Branch, spoke on the subject "Forestry in Canada." Mr. Tulley, of the same Branch, also gave a synopsis of the administrative data relating to the Forestry Branch and showed a series of very interesting lantern slides, illustrating forestry problems.

Mr. Dickson aptly emphasized the inconceivable quantities of timber used each year in Canada by pointing out that the railway companies used one hundred and fifty millions of ties each year, that the 1911 cut was five billion feet board measure, and other facts involving stupendous figures. In a condensed yet clear and forceful way, he touched on most of the great subjects comprehended in the term "forestry," forestry, as he described it, being "The Parent of Industries."

He stated that information available shows that on 60% of the croppable land, timber can be more profitably grown than farm crops. The science of forest management seeks first to ensure the permanence of the lumbering industry, and, secondly, to gain the many other auxiliary benefits, which nourish the life of a nation. The fundamental importance of wood in nearly all phases of industrial life was emphasized. At present, there is a very small stand of merchantable timber in the so-called "Great Northern Spruce Forest," the mature timber having been nearly all swept away by repeated fires during the past century. An analogous condition exists in our southern hardwood belt—but due to cutting rather than fire. Last year some 60% of the hardwood used in Canadian woodworking industries was imported.

It was pointed out that the main elements of a forest policy for Canada must be:

- (1) Education of public opinion in order to provide the authority, the money, the driving power.
- (2) Classification, according to its producing capacity, of all publicly owned land, to provide for permanence of use.
- (3) A plan of cordial and mutually profitable co-operation on an equitable basis of duties and rewards.
- (4) Organization on a strictly non-partisan basis, of a trained and efficient forest service personnel.
- (5) Provision and equipment for investigation and research work relating to forest problems.
- (6) Whatever legislation may be required to place trained men in charge of our forest lands, and insure uniform requirements from every forest user.