

my indebtedness I have not been overlooking the splendid work in the country's interest that is being done by the Canadian Forestry Association. Please excuse brevity as I am hurrying to catch a train. Yours for Canada.'

From an M. P. P.

'Have no interest whatever in this question and I desire that my name be effaced from your list.'

From a Merchant.

'Enclosed find \$2. I wish you every success, although have not had the pleasure of attending any of your meetings for some time.'

From a Financial Agent.

'I find on my desk a reminder from you of some overdue fees to the Canadian Forestry Association. I am sure that more than a year ago I sent you notification of my desire to discontinue my membership. I have come to the conclusion that after we have saved the country the big fellows or those with a "a pull" will get it anyway, so what's the use?'

From a Manufacturer of Campers' and Lumbermen's Supplies.

'We acknowledge your favor of the 29th drawing our attention to a membership fee of \$2.00 for the years 1912-13, which has not been paid.

'With reference to same, would advise that we wish our name taken off your membership list, as we cannot see that being a member of the Canadian Forestry Association is of any benefit to us. The work which you are doing is a splendid work, but we do not think it should be subscribed to and carried on by private individuals. Our impression is that it is of sufficient importance to be supported by the Governments of our country.'

From a Lumberman.

'It is with pleasure that I acknowledge receipt of your announcement of the Canadian Forestry Convention to be held in Winnipeg commencing July 7th. I heartily appreciate your kindness and regret that business will not allow of any furlough at this time.

'Being an old resident of Ontario I have had considerable experience in the planting and growth of trees.

'The conservation of our timber lands; the replanting of devastated areas not suitable for cultivation and the planting of trees on the farms and in the towns and cities, especially of the prairie provinces, are propositions that have my warmest sympathy. Owing to the pressure of other matters it would not be worth while becoming a member of the Association.'

From one in the Bush.

'In looking over my papers I found this letter which does not appear to have been answered.

'I paid one or two years subscription to the Forestry Association but dropped it because I saw no chance of any good - except to the grafters - coming out of it.

'There is only one way to check the ravages of fire in our woods, and that is to burn the brush.

'This is perfectly feasible if done in the right way, and at the proper time. The result would be to lessen by 90 per cent the damage done by fire. The expense would average \$1.00 per M on lumber board measure, and if the Ontario Government had reduced the fees by that sum 20 years ago, and compelled the licensees to do clean work, it would have saved the country an enormous sum.

'I have, by writing to the press and to men in a position to influence the Government, done my best to get something done, but it is useless. Living in the lumber country myself, I am in a position to say that four dollars out of every five paid for fire protection is pure graft.'

THE PATRONAGE EVIL.

The Toronto News in a recent issue had the following editorial on the need of extending civil service reform to the outside service:—

There is reason to think that the Borden Government is moving towards reorganization of the departments. There is urgent need to relieve Ministers of many petty and vexatious duties. Still there are grave defects in the classification of the inside service. The abler officials are underpaid. Many persons in the service, appointed only for political reasons, are filling places to which they are unequal. The lack of a system of superannuation embarrasses Ministers and heads of departments in dealing with crowded pay rolls and inefficient officers. In the outside service radical reform is necessary to ensure justice to public servants and efficient management of the public business.

It is not true that devotion to public affairs must necessarily be stimulated by office and emoluments. The civil servant is entitled to the same security of employment the same chance of promotion, the same reward for industry and efficiency as the rest of us enjoy in our various pursuits. This he cannot have while the public offices are treated as the spoil of party and the high places of the service are reserved for untrained politicians who must be fitted for their duties by the very men whom they supplant. At best the area of patronage can only be restricted, for judicial appointments, the appointments to public commissions,