

## No Politics in B. C. Forest Service!

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The lumbermen of British Columbia took an important step recently when they appointed a deputation of their members to wait upon Premier Brewster at Victoria and urge that the Forest Service of the province be so administered in future that politics shall play no part in it.

The deputation was composed of Mr. C. D. McNab, president of the Mountain Lumbermen's Association; Messrs. H. R. MacMillan, Hugh Davidson and R. H. H. Alexander, of the Coast Lumber & Shingle Association; and Messrs. Mark Rector and W. B. W. Armstrong of the B. C. Loggers' Association. In order that the Forest Service might be taken entirely out of politics these gentlemen suggested to the Premier that all appointments be placed in the hands of a Commission composed of five members—two representatives of the Mountain lumber interests, two named by the Coast lumbermen, and the Minister of Lands. Premier Brewster said that when taking office his government had determined to make efficiency their guiding principle when making appointments, and believed the objects aimed at by the lumbermen would be fully safeguarded in this way, but he was prepared to promise very careful consideration of the commission plan on the part of himself and colleagues, their earnest aim being to handle the forest resources of the province in a way that would yield the highest possible revenue while conserving the supply of timber and guarding the future growth.

The Victoria Colonist, in referring to the request made by the lumbermen, backs up the need of technically trained men for the Forest Service in the following words:

"Ever since the former Chief Forester, Mr. H. R. MacMillan, inaugurated the Forest Branch of the Department of Lands, it has been the aim to have a professional service, that is, a service composed of men who have undergone training in the technical side of the business. This practice is

now being followed everywhere that governments have control of forest wealth. British Columbia took the lead in Canada in that respect and only recently Ontario, profiting by the drastic experience it has had in the tremendous waste of timber wealth in northern Ontario through disastrous forest fires, has adopted the most of British Columbia's forest protection methods. The fact, too, that the provincial branch has been co-operating in many material ways with the federal authorities in forest protection and that this joint work has done great good in reducing the timber loss from fires to a minimum is indicative of the necessity that in the future the efficiency of the service should be maintained at the very highest point. The present Chief Forester, Mr. M. A. Grainger, is also a strong advocate of a technically trained service, and while, since the war began, the service has lost through enlistments some of its best field men, it is his desire to keep the service up to the previous standard."

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### Douglas Fir on British Railways.

As evidence of the remarkable strength of Douglas fir, an official of one of the great British railways in a letter to an official of the British Columbia forestry department, stated that out of 616 railway ties of Douglas fir laid down more than 16 years ago, on a main line over which traffic of fifteen million tons per annum passed, only 23 had been renewed, the remainder being still in good condition.

British Columbia possesses an inexhaustible supply of this magnificent timber observes the Vancouver Sun, and undoubtedly it will compete successfully with other timber in the markets for building timber which will be opened in Europe when the war ends. Present indications are that Douglas fir will be a source of immense wealth to this province at the close of the war.