

Mr. F. W. Jones, President of the Mountain Lumbermen's Association of British Columbia, read a paper on "The Lumbering Industry in the Mountains." After sketching the development of the lumber industry in the mountains, in which the Mountain Association had an important part, and predicting a bright future for it, Mr. Jones went on to say:

"We are all in sympathy with the objects of the Canadian Forestry Association; that we are all members of that Association, that a great many of our members are here to-day, and that all the rest would be here if they could possibly have got away.

"In the mountains, reforestation is not a live issue at present, but our interest is to establish some better system of preserving and managing what the Almighty has given us and stopping the enormous destruction of standing timber by fire. We want better laws for dealing with fires; some attempt at a 'Fire Ranging System,' in the interior of B. C. by the Provincial Government; more definite regulations covering the difference between agricultural and timber lands; a campaign of education under the auspices of the Forestry Association, as to the importance of preserving standing timber (even small growing trees which will not be fit to log for some years), putting down fires, and keeping squatters out of timbered areas and places where young timber is coming on; and an amendment of the Provincial regulations providing for such tenure and terms on timber licences, that the lumbermen will be able to pay some attention to Forestry principles, in carrying on their operations.

"Next to fire, the greatest enemy to the proper management of the Forest resources of this Province, is the manner in which they are administered, particularly in the way of the title given to timber licences, and the rentals charged.

"The present regulations would seem to have been invented for the purpose of forcing the clearing of each limit as rapidly as possible, in order that it may be abandoned at the earliest date.

"Practically all the timber land in the interior, outside of the Dominion Belt and lands given to railways, is held under special licence. Each special licence consists of not more than 640 acres and for this an annual rental of \$1.15 is charged, in addition to the dues of 50 cents per thousand, when the timber is cut.

"In neither case is there any provision whatever for renewal after the expiration of the 16 or 21 years period, as the case may be.

"Now the natural result of the very high rental, the uncertainty of tenure, and the possibility of a sharp increase in the rental of the 21 year licences at any time the Government needed