

Formation of Canadian Forestry Association

The meeting was held in the Railway Committee room of the House of Commons and was presided over by Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière, Minister of Inland Revenue.

Sir Henri stated that the Canadians belonging to the American Forestry Association, and others interested in matters affecting our timber resources, had come to the conclusion that it was time to form a Canadian Forestry Association, and a meeting had been held a short time ago to see what steps could be taken in that direction. At that meeting a committee was appointed to draft a constitution and by-laws, to be submitted at the convention which was now in session.

The first object of such an association should be to advocate and encourage judicious methods in dealing with our forests. These who had been connected with the American Association knew how much it had been able to accomplish in calling attention to the necessity for a proper management of the timber resources of that country, and in Canada we are in a much better position to deal with the problem, as the forests still remain almost entirely in the hands of the Crown.

A second subject: To awaken public interest to the dangers resulting from undue destruction of the timber along the sources of rivers and streams. The importance of this work may be easily seen from the reports of the American Associations, particularly those of Montana and Colorado.

We should encourage the exploration of our public domain to decide what the different portions are best fitted for, with the object of having a portion of the unappropriated land permanently reserved for the growth of timber. If there is anything of importance to be done, it is surely to discover what our own property is best fitted for and to use it for those purposes. It is a mistake to permit settlers to go upon land which is utterly unfitted for agriculture and which they must leave after they have destroyed the wood that may be upon it.

Forest tree planting should be encouraged with a view to retaining moisture, providing shelter and beautifying our public high ways and parks.

An effort should be made by this association to collect and disseminate for the benefit of the public information bearing on the forestry problem with respect both to the prairie and wooded districts of Canada, and to have instruction in regard to forestry given in the schools.

Having explained the objects which we hope to accomplish by the formation of this association, the constitution and by-laws drafted by the committee appointed for that purpose will be submitted for your approval.

A communication was read from Dr. R. L. Fernow, of Cornell University, formerly

chief forester of the United States, expressing his regret at being unable to be present, and wishing the association all success.

The constitution and by-laws were then submitted to the meeting, and, after the clauses had been considered separately and amended in some particulars, were passed as the Constitution and By-Laws of the Association.

At the afternoon session a paper was read by Dr. Robert Bell, Assistant Director and Geologist of the Geological Survey, on "The Northern Timber Areas of Canada."

Dr. Bell illustrated by a map of Canada, which had been prepared by himself, and which showed the northern ranges of the principal Canadian trees, the great extent of the forest wealth of Canada, covering an area of thirty times that of Great Britain, and one-thirtieth of which would be sufficient for all the needs of a population such as Canada has at present. The range of timber is to latitude 55 to 59 North at Hudson Bay, trending as far north as 68 in the Mackenzie Basin, or within the Arctic Circle. Since the disappearance of the great glaciers the tree lines have been moving northward, but the tendency is again southward, though some trees have probably not yet reached their northern limit.

On account of its importance to the pulp industry the rate of growth of the white spruce was particularly mentioned, the complete maturity of the tree being reached in 150 years, while its most rapid growth was between eight and thirty years, at which age it assumed tree-like proportions.

Sir Henri Joly stated that his experience in Quebec was that the rate of growth was about one inch in five or six years and he submitted some specimens of spruce bearing out his statement.

The discussion on this paper was taken part in by Dr. Saunders, Director of Experimental Farms; Hon. W. D. Perley, Sir William Hingston, Mr. William Little and others.

Mr. Thomas Southworth, Clerk of Forestry for the Province of Ontario, read a paper upon "The History of Economic Forestry in Ontario," in which he outlined the steps which had been taken by the early government of Canada for the reservation of timber, and also the policy now being followed in regard to the setting apart of timber reserves, such as that at Lake Temagami, the reserves on which would be dealt with in as scientific a manner as possible, although it was hardly probable that at present they could be organized on such a complete system as those of Germany or the Continent.

Prof. John Macoun, Assistant Director and Botanist of the Geological Survey, brought before the association the question of "The Deforestation and Reforestation of the Western Prairies." He contended

that the great cause of the deforestation of the prairies, which he considered to have been at one time well wooded, was the prairie fires, as he had found in his early exploration in the West that where the timber was protected by stretches of water or moist ground, the timber was preserved. The sweeping away of the timber had left the ground open to the desiccating action of the wind and the resultant dryness of the atmosphere had resulted in perpetuating the condition. The true solution of the problem was to be found in working from the places where water could be most easily obtained, the valleys of the rivers, and gradually spreading over the plain. The natural operations could be assisted by the building of dams to catch the water in the spring and retain it. When the forest was once established the moisture drawn up from deep within the soil by the action of the sun on the trees would furnish sufficient moisture to the atmosphere and restore the natural conditions existing previous to the laying bare of the country by fire.

Papers by Mr. William Pearce, Superintendent of Mines for the Department of the Interior at Calgary, and Mr. Andrew Mitchell, formerly forester for Lord Dunsraven and the Earl of Rosebery in the Old Country, now of Western Canada, on "Tree Planting on the Prairies," were read.

On motion of Mr. Thomas Southworth, it was decided to accept the offer of "Rod and Gun in Canada," made through its manager, Mr. J. F. Mackay, to act as the official organ of the association, and the secretary was instructed to enter into communication with Mr. Mackay and see what arrangements could be made for supplying the members of the association with copies of that publication.

The election of officers was then proceeded with, resulting as follows: Honorary president, Lord Minto; president, Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière; vice-president, Mr. William Little; secretary, Mr. E. Stewart, Inspector of Forestry, Department of the Interior, Ottawa; assistant secretary and treasurer, Mr. R. H. Campbell; directors, Messrs. Hiram Robinson, E. W. Main, C. Jackson, R. C. H. Thomas Southworth, Hon. G. W. Allan, Dr. Saunders and Professor Macoun.

At a subsequent meeting of the Executive Committee the following vice-presidents for the different Provinces were appointed: Assiniboia, Hon. W. D. Perley; Alberta, Mr. William Pearce; Ontario, Mr. J. B. McWilliams; British Columbia, Mr. H. Hestock, M.P.; New Brunswick, Hon. D. G. Klag; Quebec, Hon. S. N. Paré; Manitoba, Mr. Stewart Melroy; Saskatchewan, Mr. Thomas McKay; Prince Edward Island, Hon. Donald Ferguson; Nova Scotia, Dr. A. H. McKay; Keewatin, Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba; Athabasca, Mr. Watson; Yukon, Mr. William Ogilvie.

Hon. A. T. Dunn, Surveyor-General of New Brunswick, advertises in that province's official gazette the sale of fishing rights (with the rod only) on several streams, upset price from \$50 to \$250, according to the water. This sale takes place in the Crown Lands office, Fredericton, N. B., on March 23rd.