

has a share in forming public opinion." And he enforces the weight of the fact so little comprehended by the many that fire losses fall not upon insurance companies, but upon the community at large. "If the average man could be brought to see that he pays a share of the loss occasioned by every fire he would then probably welcome preventive measures in the same way that he now consents to and supports rigorous quarantine measures in regard to contagious diseases. When this consummation has been attained there will be a great change in the experience of fire insurance companies and a corresponding reduction in the rates which they are now compelled to charge—but probably not before."

Among the causes of conflagrations are these three classes. First, the absence of fire protection due to carelessness or stupidity on the part of municipal authorities, or of the controllers of a private water-works company in emptying the reservoir or turning off water in certain sections of a town or city—this done sometimes in a very dry season. Secondly, such causes as the close contiguity of numerous buildings built of wood with shingle roofs. Thirdly, the danger from a building of large area in which intense combustion has been very rapidly set up. In such a case the gases and heated air cannot be confined within the limits of the four walls, but belch out through the windows, igniting any building within a moderate distance.

A point often made, but which cannot be too strongly insisted upon, is that the openings in the walls of buildings, the openings in their floors, and unenclosed elevator shafts, are constant and common causes of the spread of fire. For another thing, it is in vain to erect fire-proof buildings if there are allowed to be fire-trap buildings all around them, either the fire from the latter will get into the windows of the former, or the heat and imprisoned gases arising from the contents of the fire-proof buildings will burst out and communicate to the combustible matter which surrounds them.



THE FORESTRY CONVENTION.

No more important question faces the people of the Dominion than that discussed in many phases of the Canadian Forestry Association at its sixth annual meeting in Quebec last week. The objects for which this Association was organized may be summarized as follows:—The preservation of the forests for their influence on climate, fertility and water supply; the exploration of the public domain and the reservation for timber production of lands unsuited for agriculture; the promotion of judicious methods in dealing with forests and woodlands; re-forestation where advisable; tree planting on the plains and on streets and highways; the collection and dissemination of information bearing on the forestry problem in general.

The attendance at the meeting was large and represented practically all parts of the Dominion, besides which delegates were present from many important institutions in the United States. The following were appointed vice-presidents for the year:—Ontario, Hon. E. J. Davis; Quebec, Hon. S. N. Parent; New Brunswick, His Honor J. B. Snowball, Lieut.-Governor; Nova Scotia, Hon. J. W. Longley; Prince Edward Island, Rev. A. E. Burke; Manitoba, Major Stewart Mulvey; Assiniboia, His Honor A. E. Forget, Lieutenant-Governor of the North-West Territories; Alberta, Wm. Pearce, Calgary; Athabasca, F. D.

Wilson, Fort Vermilion; British Columbia, Hon. Hewitt Bostock; Keewatin, the Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba.

An important matter was touched on in the report of the Forestry and Colonization Commission of Quebec to the local legislature. Some of the conclusions of this commission were as follows:—

"That there is no antagonism between the holders of timber licenses and real settlers, or those who honestly take up public lands with the view of clearing them, and not of speculating in the timber. That the number of speculators in Government lots and in timber, already very considerable, is constantly on the increase. These interlopers are the scourge of colonization, a subject of continual trouble, and, on occasion, of serious losses to the license holders and the Government. The extraordinarily increased value which all woods have attained within four or five years has caused this practice to spring up in all parts of the Province, and the operations have assumed proportions which have become almost a menace to the legitimately conducted lumber industry. The first measure necessary is the division of the public domain into settlement lands and merchantable timber lands. There is a great deal of land unsuited for profitable cultivation, as much by the nature as by the conformation of the soil, but very richly timbered. It would, therefore, be in the interest of the Province to form these lands into forest reserves. That the system of protection against forest fires is insufficient, and requires an increase in the number and an improvement in the personnel of the fire ranging staff. Further restrictions as to the time and methods of setting out of fires are recommended, and the necessity for educating the people to the need for care in handling fire is urged."

Forest fires are still causing destruction in various parts of Canada, though it is satisfactory to learn that their extent has been largely controlled by the fire-ranging system now generally adopted throughout the Dominion. Parts of British Columbia, however, outside the railway belt, which is under the supervision of the Dominion fire-rangers, have suffered considerably, partly owing to the dry season and partly because that province has not provided effectively for a protection system.

The address of the President, Mr. Aubrey White, was a very able one. It touched upon many matters of interest to lumbermen and foresters, and was frequently applauded. There were also several other papers read.



BOARD OF TRADE MEMBERSHIP AND ITS DUTIES.

A pronounced rebuke was given to those business men of a community who refuse to take their share in work for the common good, by Mr. D. Hughes Charles, president of the Peterboro Board of Trade. Said that gentleman the other day when pressed to accept the presidency of the Board for another term: "I do not think that I got the support as president which I should from the town generally, and the members of the board in particular. We held four meetings during the year, and only three members attended all of them, according to the secretary's reports; four members were present at four meetings, six at three, eight at two, and sixteen at one meeting out of the five. There are thirty-seven members of this board of trade who never attended a meeting at all." Continuing, he said he came to Peterboro a stranger and had done all in his power to advance the interests of the board. He did not see why a stranger should go on doing the work where the general public was most