

to the fullest regulation by the Governments concerned. The field is open, therefore, for improvement in regulations.

The generally admitted evils in the present methods of lumbering are:—

- (a) Destruction of young growths.
- (b) Cutting of trees not sufficiently matured.
- (c) Leaving of inflammable refuse and débris upon the ground.

(2) The great foe of the forest is fire. A good deal has been done in the way of fire protection, but much more requires to be done. Notwithstanding everything that has been said and written on the subject, and the measures of prevention taken, it remains a fact that the devastation of forests by fire is going on at a rate that is simply appalling when one considers the ultimate and not far distant result. It is doubtful if one person in ten thousand realizes the actual meaning of even the partial and fragmentary information which we have on this subject. I commend to the attention of the members of this Commission a careful perusal of a little book issued by Mr. J. F. Whitson, O.L.S., of the Ontario Department of Lands, Forests and Mines, 1908, in which the subject is ably dealt with.

Tree planting in the west is important; the renewing of the white pine forests is important; the pulp-wood question is important; many other phases of the question are important, but the all-essential thing in regard to the question of forests is to get the community wakened up to the idea that an absolutely new departure must be made and at any cost the destruction of forests by fire must be stopped.

On a certain night during the past summer, I was in a log mining camp in one of the northern mining districts. The men in charge of that camp were up all night watching and fighting fires to prevent the destruction of the camp. On three sides as far as could be seen the fire was raging in a country covered with forest. It destroyed not only the timber, but the young growth and the covering of moss and forest mould, which is the only thing that sustains vegetable life on those hills. In that district the soil covering is very thin, and, once the fire goes through, there is nothing left but the barren rocks interspersed with lakes. For such destruction there is absolutely no excuse, and the most drastic enforcement of the law should be had to prevent it. A few striking examples will quickly disseminate the knowledge that no mercy will be shown to those who violate the law in this respect, and the fires started by careless prospectors and miners will cease. A sure reward in public recognition and gratitude awaits the man who will initiate such action.