

Secretary of Agriculture, in whose Department the Bureau of Forestry is located. Mr. Wilson, as President of the American Forestry Association, by which the Congress was convoked, gave the delegates a hearty welcome, and pointed out the great significance of the Congress, a body of men representing great and varied interests, gathered together to discuss temperately and far-sightedly the policy and the methods under which the highest permanent usefulness of the forest can be maintained. As Mr. Wilson pointed out: the extension of railroads, the settlement of the public domain, the building of cities, towns and villages, the use of wood in paper making and the opening of the mines call for more wood every year, and the forests respond to the demand. There are only a few large reserves left from which to draw supplies. The extreme east, the extreme west, and the Gulf coast are now the sources of commercial supply. The industries of the country will be carried on at greater expense as wood becomes scarcer, and the substitutes become dearer. Agriculture, commerce and mining will greatly miss the cheap supply of wood to which they have been accustomed.

The Report of the Board of Directors of the American Forestry Association, presented at this Session, gave a resume of the present position of forest legislation in the United States, and some points may be noticed particularly with such additional explanations as may be necessary to make the subject clearer to Canadians.

The Forest Reserves of the United States now number sixty-one, and embrace a total area of 63,348,656 acres. The policy of selling the mature, dead and down timber in the reserves, has been adopted, and during the past year 377 sales were held, realizing \$58,000. These sales, combined with the privilege allowed settlers to take without cost, for their individual use, timber from the Forest Reserves for domestic purposes, have resulted in clearing the reserves of much dead and down timber, and in every way improved their condition. The forest rangers in the reserves have done excellent work in preventing fires. The grazing privileges in the Forest Reserves are of special value in the west, especially where sheep are grazed, and where the highlands included in the reserve are required for summer range. Excessive