

est protection fund, so as to favor the growth of the new crop of timber and to give it as much protection as possible against fire. This work and the clearing up of dangerous debris alongside public roads and in other specially dangerous localities will necessitate a slash-burning campaign in many portions of the province. Experiments already made by us in this line have proved most successful.

ATTITUDE OF PUBLIC TO FIRES CHANGED.

'We are all conscious of the remarkable change that has taken place in public opinion with regard to forest fires. Ten years ago people in the west looked upon the burning of entire watersheds as a natural alteration in the scenery that went with railway construction, mining or land-clearing as a matter of course. There was a good deal of wagging of heads at such wholesale destruction, but the prevention or controlling of forest fires seemed to be too big an undertaking, and there was consequently a general feeling of helplessness in the matter. That was so even five or six years ago. Today in this province there is an outcry if precautions are not taken to prevent fires in places where dangerous conditions exist, and when fires occur people expect the fighting of them to be organized promptly, and look for just as much money to be expended as the circumstances require.

'Public opinion, in other words, has been educated to higher standards, and this result has been accomplished almost entirely by the steady publicity that forest protection has received through the press, through public speaking, through the efforts of forestry associations, and through the enforcement of the permit law and other local work.

WASTE IN MANUFACTURE.

'Six years ago we in this province felt powerless to prevent the annual waste by fire; today we see our way with confidence. If one great problem can thus be solved, why not another? Today, for instance, each million feet of lumber manufactured on the Pacific Coast means the wholesale butchery of low-grade material for which our operators can find no market.

'Other waste there is that is preventable, for example, the using of high-class material in the woods for purposes for which inferior timber would suffice, and the cutting of lumber into even lengths only, on account of which trade practice investigation shows that two per cent. is lost; but before the main problem of the low-grade log, we are as helpless today as we were regarding fire protection a few years ago. I look to co-operation between the operators of this province and the forest service, in order that this disease of waste that affects our forest may be

studied as carefully as doctors study human diseases and that every possible way of improving matters be discovered and made use of.

'Time forbids that I should say more on this occasion, and I will confine myself to emphasizing one final point. The conservation movement has succeeded in making the public realize that, region by region, and state by state, many of the forests of this continent are being cut out. It is human nature for people to console themselves with the thought that the forests will last their time and that nothing much can be done.

'I think that it is just here that the failure to give people a real interest in forest business has occurred. . . . What we need to drive into the understanding of the people is that forestry, as we practice it, means the scientific management of the government's immense timber business, so that the citizen who would otherwise have to pay \$15 in taxes has only to pay \$10; so that in years to come the citizen will have to pay still less; so that while producing these effects on revenue, the system of forest finance will be so adjusted as to offer the maximum of encouragement to the growth of the lumbering industry; and, above all other considerations, so that our forest capital, the source of our prosperity, may be preserved intact.'

COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS.

The Resolutions committee named by the president was composed of Hon. W. R. Ross, Mr. R. H. Campbell, Dominion Director of Forestry; Dr. Fernow, dean of the faculty of forestry of the University of Toronto; Mr. Aubrey White, deputy minister of lands, forests and mines of Ontario; Mr. Wm. McNeill, Vancouver, and Mr. A. C. Flumerfelt, Victoria.

LUMBERMEN APPROVE FOREST ACT.

Mr. T. F. Paterson, B.S.A., representing the British Columbia Lumber and Shingle Association, read a paper on 'The Forest Act of British Columbia as Viewed by the Coast Lumberman.' On the whole, he said, the lumbermen thought the act a good one, and were prepared to co-operate with the forest branch in carrying out a policy of conservation. Not knowing the members of the service yet, he refrained from any criticism of them, but accepted the minister's statement that the best men were being selected. In the appointment of fire wardens and log scalers, he said the lumbermen desired to see no man given a position unless he was a man of some ability and experience. They recommended an examination for scalers, and the appointment of fire wardens for the year round at adequate salaries.