

ment is nil as yet, and but little development would return them their few dollars. The man whom it would hit most is the speculator in limits, the man who is allowed by the present system to gamble with millions of the people's property without paying for it. He would have to settle down to business in keeping with the spirit and intent of the license law and make his money (and it would be good money, too) in a way slower than gambling.

That this change would lead to an immediate "slaughter" of the forest is not necessarily true at all. The people, in their government, have ample power to prevent this by raising the stumpage or by direct prohibition of wasteful and destructive cutting.

The claims that the lumber industry would receive a serious backset, that "development" is stopped, that roads, towns, etc., etc., would not be built, may be true in part. But it will be a very small part only. These "nugget hunters" did not come until prices warranted their coming. The men who will build mills and do business will come whenever there is money in the lumber business. This will depend on prices of the large markets, which in turn are in no wise affected by the license and its character.

Give the real lumberman his timber, all he wants of it, and at a price where he can make money, but prohibit all future gambling through the transferable license.

The transferable license is class legislation and has worked in favor of few and against the many. The small logger is crowded out, monopoly has taken his place. The transferable license has led to "stampede," "nugget hunting" location, to a premature boom-claim business with all its gamble and mischief. The transferable license has given to aliens as well as citizens the property of the people by the millions of dollars.

The transferable license has perverted the license system, and has worked in the direction of complete alienation of forest property. The license is a permit and the transfer power has made the permit into a deed.

The transferable license, like the unwise and premature selling of timber lands in the United States, has been

largely responsible for much of the forest destruction, the robbing of our children and the devastation of our land. It will do the same for British Columbia that it has done for Ontario.

The transferable license has complicated the license to a point where not only the ownership of the forest but even the proper regulation of the business of the forest is largely prevented.

It has tied the hands of the people and prevents them from asserting their moral duty.

The transferable license is at the root of all evil in the disposition and the management of the Canadian forest. It should go.

DR. CLARK'S OPINIONS.

Dr. J. F. Clark, formerly Provincial Forester for Ontario, has, since entering the lumber industry in British Columbia, taken a position of prominence and his opinion, coming from one who is a trained forester and is likewise familiar with business conditions in the province, carries considerable weight. Part of his evidence before the Forestry Commission is as follows:—

THE TENURE OF LICENSES.

The limited tenure feature of timber licenses is, in view of the large amount of timber to be sold, a direct and most powerful incentive to wasteful logging and also utterly prohibitive of any forestry practices on the part of loggers. Twenty-one years is too short a time to plan for future crops of trees, and hence that term prohibits forestry measures so far as he is concerned. So far as the logger who cares nothing for the future of the forest is concerned, he could have no objections to a limited tenure, provided there was a harmonious relation between the timber to be cut, the markets available and the time allowed in which to cut it. When the tenure was fixed at twenty-one years there were but a few hundred sections under license and future development in this line were not and could not have been foreseen.

A failure to bring the time limit on licensed timber into harmony with the amount of timber so licensed would inevitably result in the embarrassment of all logging and lumber manufacturing enterprises by forcing a chronic state of