

ment in a forestry society, the number of members has increased from 300 to over 1,500 within the last six months. In discussing the project with many bodies of western business men in October last, it was impressed upon the Secretary that the appointment of a western propagandist, giving attention to the prairie provinces and British Columbia, would give new vitality to our enterprises beyond the Great Lakes.

Another project from which we are temporarily debarred by lack of financial support is the

establishment of a Children's Lecturer, devoting his time entirely to propagandist work with Boy Scouts, school children, etc. The contact already established between our work and the growing generation demonstrates the remarkable attractiveness of the forest conservation idea to the child mind and the great possibilities of inculcating during the early stages sound ideals for the public administration of the natural resources.

ROBSON BLACK, *Secretary.*

DR. FERNOW ON THE TASK AHEAD

(A letter written by the Dean Emeritus of the Faculty of Forestry, Toronto, to the annual meeting of the Canadian Forestry Association at Quebec.)

Being by my physical condition prevented from attending your meeting, I accept gladly the invitation to express in writing some thoughts fit for the occasion.

In the first place, I want to congratulate you on the excellent progress which the Association has made under your guidance in spite of war conditions. Having myself been identified with the forestry movement on this continent for some forty years, nearly half that time as Secretary and as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the American Forestry Association, I know and appreciate fully the difficulties of introducing an economic reform in which the human element is lacking or at least indirect.

In this endeavor there are three phases of development to be recognized, namely: the formation of public opinion; the influencing of government activity; the providing of technical knowledge and ability. The growth of the Association testifies to the success of having secured large and influential public opinion on the necessity of forestry reform. A partial success has been attained in persuading the authorities that the abandonment of methods fit for the pioneering stages of national existence is necessary and are awaiting advice how to secure such reform. But the third phase of the development, the procuring of the means for providing such advice is largely deferred.

We have begun in earnest to eradicate the greatest enemy of our forests—the fire; at least

we know how to combat it if the necessary funds are furnished. Forestry, however, is not accomplished by such protection against destruction. Forestry means reproduction, regeneration, reforestation—silviculture. Of this science we know but little that is applicable under our special conditions. Silviculture is based upon empiricism, experiment and experience in the woods, and, to secure such, time is required—a long time. In the forestry schools we can impart the fundamental basis for silvicultural practice and turn out men who may become foresters if opportunity is given them to experiment and gather experience in the woods.

Such experimentation—or research—to use a term now become popular—has been begun in a small way by the Commission of Conservation, the federal Forestry Branch, and a few private concerns. It should be taken up on a large scale by the Departments of Lands of the provinces and by the Dominion Branch, so that they may learn what conditions to prescribe for the logging of their limits with a view of securing reproduction.

This in my opinion, is now a most urgent matter and should form a part of the programme of the Association, the securing of adequate endowments and opportunities for educating foresters and gaining silvicultural experience.

Sincerely yours,

B. E. FERNOW,