

N. B. Changes Plan of Selling Timber

On about 400 miles of timber lands in New Brunswick the licenses of which expired in August last, the Government of the province has decided to put the lands up to competitive bidding on the basis of a straight stumpage rate per thousand superficial feet, the upset price of which will be announced at the hour of sale. The announcement is the more unusual as these lands had been

advertised for sale under the traditional yearly lease plan, the Government cancelling the advertising at the last moment.

Whether the change of policy will be extended to cover all future disposals of Crown timber is not stated, but the success of the plan from the points of view of lumbermen and provincial revenues will be watched with much interest.

N. B. Chooses Rangers on Merit Basis

It is a common impression that fire ranging, as controlled by politically-appointed governments is fated to carry a heavy load of personal incompetents. New Brunswick, however, promises to overcome this inherent flaw through the services of the new Forestry Board, on which the non-partisan voice of representative lumbermen should neutralize any politician tendencies that might upset efficiency. This Board recently held examinations at which 139 applicants presented themselves. Of this number 63 passed the tests. The New Brunswick Forestry Division is thus commencing its ranger appointments on a strict merit basis and laying sure foundations for economical expenditure and well-disciplined service.

Mr. L. A. Gagnon, the present chief game warden, is to be continued and in addition will supervise the work of the different inspectors in regard to the work of game protection.

Mr. A. T. Murchie, the present chief scaler, will superintend the work of the whole province in regard to scaling.

Inspectors are appointed to check the scale and to supervise rangers in regard to scaling, fire protection, and game protection for new districts.

The new districts and inspectors are as follows: Districts one to seven, inclusive, Restigouche County, Arthur C. McElveney, inspector's headquarters at Campbellton. Num-

bers eight to fifteen, Gloucester and Northumberland Counties, E. A. Roberts, inspector headquarters Bathurst. Districts sixteen to twenty with twenty-five portions of Gloucester and Northumberland Counties, headquarters at Newcastle, with M. A. Craig as inspector. Districts twenty-one, twenty-two, twenty-three, twenty-four, twenty-six, twenty-seven and thirty-one, including portions of Northumberland, York, Queens and Kent Counties, headquarters at Chatham, inspector Wm. Kerr. Districts twenty-eight to thirty-six, with the exception of number thirty-one, embraces portions of Madawaska, Victoria, Carleton, York, Charlotte, St. John, Kings, Queens and Sunbury. The inspector of this district is Mr. Geo. F. Burden, ex-M.L.A., whose headquarters will be in this city.

The large number that did not qualify was due to the fact that considerable numbers of the applicants presented themselves for examination that had not sufficient previous experience in scaling.

A considerable number of the 63 were ruled out as being over the age limit of 55 years; also a number declined to accept yearly work, preferring to work only in the winter.

In order to pass the examinations, candidates were obliged to stand practical tests written and oral, in logging, scaling, cruising, surveying, fire and game protection and ability to prepare reports.