

# Canadian Forestry Journal

VOL. IX. OTTAWA, CANADA, NOVEMBER, 1913.

No. 11

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## THE FIELD OF WORK.

The following opinions are selected because they seem to signify where the work of the Canadian Forestry Association lies. Some people tell us that the public is enthusiastically and overwhelmingly behind us and that all that is necessary is to bring that public opinion to bear to make governments and corporations do right. The indications are that we have with us a respectable and growing body of public opinion but that the great bulk of the people do not know anything at all about the need of conserving our forests and consequently do not care. It is not a case of hostility but of lack of knowledge.

The great work, therefore, of the Association must be publicity and education. The writers of some of the above letters would have these ends secured by making the Association a government department and providing it with ample funds from the public purse. It would be easier on the officers of the Association to get their funds in a lump grant than to collect them in the form of one dollar bills for membership fees from Atlantic to the Pacific. Some of the letter writers below think the Association is of precious little use (and their candor is valuable in keeping us humble and active) but the best friends of the Association agree that it would be of no use at all if it were a government department. Government departments exist to carry out the orders of departmental heads; independent associations exist to let heads of departments know how the people view their policy and their administration. In that way an association performs a real service

which is appreciated and respected by the elected rulers of the country.

The Association has never adopted the attitude of being perpetually 'agin the government' because it has always found governments open to argument and ready to advance as fast as the people.

In order to perform this function toward governments an association must get the people to express their opinion and no one can express an opinion on a subject he knows nothing about. So we come back to the point that the chief work of the Association is education. There is an immense field before it. It is hampered by conditions. It spends half its time in collecting funds to enable it to spend the other half in propaganda work. It fails to collect enough and so it must do its work badly in comparison with what ought to be done. Still it works on lines strictly in harmony with our British and Canadian institutions, and it is performing a work which no other body, governmental or private, is performing to-day.

The greatest obstacle to the saving and utilization of our forests for the good of the whole community is the lack of knowledge of the people that the forests need saving, or, indeed, are worth saving. We need therefore to rally to the cause leading men and institutions in every community not primarily to strengthen the Association but to show their neighbors that forest conservation is not a fad.

### Some Opinions.

*From an Insurance Manager.*

Enclosed find the writer's cheque for \$3.00. The matter has been entirely overlooked and I am pleased that you have this tactfully and pointedly called my attention to my remissness. While I have overlooked