

LETTER FROM MR. LOUIS MILLER.

The following letter from Mr. Louis Miller, of Crieff, Scotland, submitted by Mr. F. C. Whitman, President of the Western Nova Scotia Lumbermen's Association, at the Forestry Convention, contains a criticism of Canadian lumbering methods which is frank, if not complimentary, and also shows that private enterprise is active in Nova Scotia in efforts to remedy the effects of deforestation. Mr. Miller expresses his thanks for the new Forest Fire Act, providing for a fire ranging system which has been passed in Nova Scotia and continues:

Unfortunately, however, the whole of Nova Scotia has not adopted that fire bill, but only certain portions of it, and I wish you could use your influence with the authorities to get it adopted by the whole of Nova Scotia. For instance, I have a property of about 100,000 acres of forest lands at Ingramport, at the head of St. Margaret's Bay, and the district of Nova Scotia, in which that property is situated, has not adopted the fire bill, and as I am practically a stranger in Nova Scotia and only come across for a month or two in summer, I don't know the parties to whom to apply, or I would urge them to get the whole of Nova Scotia to adopt that fire bill.

About two years ago we had a serious forest fire at Ingramport, caused by some fishermen coming out from Halifax—some of the officers of the garrison regiment there—to fish in the lakes on our property, with the result that they set fire to the forest and burnt up about 10,000 acres.

When a forest fire takes place in Nova Scotia, or any part of Canada, a crop of bushes and hardwood comes up afterwards, and the burnt ground is entirely lost for twenty or thirty years, for it is only after that time that the natural crop of spruce trees begins to come up.

I have had large experience in Sweden during the past 25 years, and I have been all over Finland and Russia. The accessible Russian forests are practically all exhausted, while those of Finland and Sweden are very nearly the same. During the past few years the Swedish people have taken alarm and started a Government system of planting over the country, which is the cheapest and probably the best I have yet come across. In Scotland it costs £2 per acre to plant young trees. In Sweden, however, they plant the seed. Wherever a forest has been destroyed by fire, or has been cut down, the Government employs a forester with about a dozen or twenty boys. The boys are