

Report on the Trent Watershed.

There has been issued by the Commission of Conservation of Canada the report on *The Trent Watershed Survey*, compiled by Dr. C. D. Howe and Mr. J. H. White of the Faculty of Forestry, University of Toronto, with an introduction by Dr. B. E. Fernow. The report comprises 156 pages and is illustrated with 32 half-tone engravings and three maps.

The district covered by the report is in the central part of Southern Ontario, and lies along the line of the Trent Valley Canal, which is ultimately to connect Lake Ontario with Georgian Bay. The region surveyed is about midway between these two bodies of water. It takes in part of the counties of Haliburton, Peterborough and Hastings. This district was once a great pine forest. Owing to the fact that the Dominion Government has invested \$10,000,000 in the Trent Valley Canal, and owing to the further fact that the navigation and water-powers on the canal are vitally related to the forest cover in the district, the Dominion Government is more directly interested than in other parts of the country. The Ontario Government is interested in the matter of timber dues and land sales, while all the municipalities are interested because of the municipal needs of the district and the question of the taxes to be derived therefrom.

The report states that the area is typical of much of the cutover lands of Eastern Canada for which it is desirable to formulate a policy of recuperation. The surface of the country is broken and hilly, interspersed with innumerable small lakes. The soil is underlaid with rock which is laid bare by repeated burning of the timber and young growth.

The report covers farming, forest, industrial, mining and tourist traffic conditions in the area considered. It states that only 15,000 people inhabit the 2,100 square miles of the watershed (a decrease since 1901 of 15 per cent.), and that hardly 10 per cent. of the region has been cleared for farm purposes. The soil is altogether unsuitable for agriculture, and run-down and abandoned farms are to be found in large numbers. Nearly 200 farms were for sale for unpaid taxes in 1911 at 6 cents per acre.

Practically all the pine has been removed. The whole area has been burned over at least once. Almost one-half the area is covered with young and second-growth trees of the poplar-birch type, the result of fires.

It was found, however, that enough hardwood and wood of the poplar-birch type remain to warrant the adoption of a policy of conservation, and Dominion, Provincial or municipal ownership of the territory in

question is suggested by the Commission as an initial step in that direction. Other recommendations are: the re-possessing by the Province of the licensed lands which have practically ceased to produce the quantity of logs contemplated under original licenses; the imposing of restrictions on existing limit holders, tending to protect the forest growth; the appointment of a forester charged with the surveillance of the region; the perfecting of a fire-protection organization, building of look-out stations and watch-towers, and appointment of the game-wardens as fire-wardens.

Copies of this report may be had by those interested by applying to the Commission of Conservation, Ottawa.

COMPLIMENT BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Many compliments have been received by the Honorable W. R. Ross, Minister of Lands of British Columbia, upon the new Timber Royalty Act, in which the principle of profit-sharing in the timber resource is a feature. Among those who have written warmly commending the new act are: Hon. Clifford Sifton, Chairman of the Canadian Commission of Conservation; Mr. Henry S. Graves, Chief Forester of the United States; Hon. David Houston, United States Secretary of Agriculture, and Dr. B. E. Fernow, Dean Faculty of Forestry of the University, Toronto. At a meeting of Timber License Holders, held in the office of the B. C. Lumber and Shingle Manufacturers' Association, the subject was discussed, and the report states that all present appeared well satisfied with the new act.

The letter of the United States Secretary of Agriculture was as follows: 'The plan of readjusting stumpage values of timber at stated intervals in sales from public lands, whereby the public will derive a fair share of the increase in lumber values, is one with which I am in hearty accord. You will doubtless be interested in learning that a provision of this character is included by this department in all contracts for sales of timber from national forest lands where the period of contract is in excess of five years, and that it has been accepted as equitable by timber operators. I feel that you are to be heartily congratulated on this progressive legislation.'

Dr. Weiss, Director of the United States Forest Laboratory at Madison, Wisconsin, U.S.A., is to go to British Columbia this summer at the request of Hon. W. R. Ross, Minister of Lands, to study the utilization of waste products in lumber manufacturing.