

CORRESPONDENCE.

PETITCODIAC, N. B.

A. H. D. ROSS, Esq.,

Dear Sir:—I enclose membership fee of \$1.00 to Canadian Forestry Association. I am glad to become a member of such an association. I wish it every success.

I would like to see it adopt a vigorous policy—a policy of education, of course, but also, as far as is possible, a legislative policy. The legislators of this country are no more alive to the urgency and importance of adequate fire protection than are the people. The forest wealth of this province has in the last twenty-five years been reduced perhaps 60 per cent. and the destruction goes on. Fire protection in this province does not protect. Any fool with a grievance against a lumbering concern may set a fire. Careless sportsmen leave camp fires burning; careless and ignorant farmers setting fire to stump fields and leaving the flames to wander at will, sparks from passing locomotives, all contribute, according to the dryness of the season, to the great annual loss by fire.

Now, it seems to me that this might all be controlled—largely so, at any rate—by legislative enactment. The number of fire rangers should be increased to at least one in every settlement, in which case the annual pay to such need not be large. His time would not be devoted to the work, but he could ascertain the cause and location of every forest smoke noticeable in his territory, and he should have authority to summon to his assistance as many men as the emergency might require, etc., etc.

Regulations with regard to fire should be ordered read in the public schools, at least once a week during the season of danger, besides which the children should have regular instruction as to the great loss by fire to the lumber itself, to the land, its effect in drying up springs and streams and its effect on climate. Men, qualified to speak, should be sent all through our provinces to lecture on the great need of forest preservation. Literature on the subject should be sent at the expense of the government to every home. In many ways, the subject should be kept constantly and forcibly before the public.

I sincerely hope your society will do more than theorize. I hope it will act and act energetically.

Very respectfully yours,

G. W. FLEMING, (M.D.)