

stration what could be done by reforestry for these sand plains that had become absolutely useless for any other purpose. The staff of experts there were giving information by bulletins and by lectures to encourage farmers to take up this work, and from the nursery over one and one half million forest seedlings had been distributed to woodlot owners in all the southern counties of the province.

So far as northern Ontario was concerned, artificial reforestation was not now a practical question. Nature was doing more than they could in an artificial way in northern Ontario. It would cost anywhere from six to fifteen dollars per acre to plant up these lands, and they could expend the money to much better advantage in acquiring lands on which there was considerable growth at the present time.

Cost of Fire Protection.

But the great question in the north was to secure proper cutting and protection from fire. He doubted whether they fully appreciated as a people the immense areas of timber land that Ontario had in its absolute possession. Only a small area of land had been alienated from the Crown, leaving tens of millions of acres for the Province to use as it thought best. As to fire ranging, a few years ago a new arrangement was made with the lumbermen whereby they bore the total cost of the fire ranging on their limits. The Province placed over these supervising rangers who had authority to compel limit holders to put the necessary number of men on these limits. Then upon Crown timber lands and forest reserves the Province employed its own rangers. They had also provincial patrols upon railway lines and other places where there was special danger. Last year there was a staff of 925 rangers on Ontario's timber lands. The cost of fire ranging to the province was \$233,000. If to that was added what he was informed was paid by the limit holders, namely, \$92,000, it would be seen that the total cost of fire ranging in the province last year was \$325,000. They were gradually strengthening and perfecting the system of fire protection in the north. This included the erection of telephone lines and lookout stations. It was impossible to totally prevent fire in these millions of acres, but the Government was endeavoring to minimize that danger as much as possible. But the Government could not do all this itself, it required and asked the co-operation of lumbermen and citizens generally. Last year he had had an Act passed in regard to the making of ties, by which the Government might suspend this work during the danger season from April to August, or might make such regulations as it deemed proper.

It seemed to him that perhaps the time had now come when they might require railway companies to treat these ties so as to extend the life of them as long as possible, and thus conserve that kind of timber.

Mr. Hearst then gave a review of the timber regulations in Canada from the earliest time, and pointed out that a number of the gentlemen that he saw before him whose names were household words in timber districts all over Canada, had themselves experienced a number of these changing regulations.

In closing Mr. Hearst said they sometimes heard too much of the differences between the manufacturing East and the grain-growing West. Perhaps one of the things that had helped to keep these two sections apart was the hitherto unoccupied portion of northern Ontario. To his mind that north land with its wealth of timber, minerals and water powers was bound to become one of the great manufacturing centres of the continent. It might be the home of millions of people in the not far distant future, and would thus bridge over the gap between East and West. In future there would be neither East nor West, but a united Canada from Atlantic to Pacific. He concluded, 'This is the object I have before me as a public man. This is my ideal that I have in view. Then I hope we shall perform our duty as citizens of this fair province of Ontario so that we shall make this great Dominion of Canada not only a source of strength to, but the dominating influence in that empire whose flag encircles the globe, whose standard is righteousness, whose path is duty.'

NEW FIRE PREVENTION ORGANIZATION.

(Continued from page 180.)

Executive committee—Sir H. N. Bate, Cecil Bethune, R. H. Campbell, W. H. Dwyer, H. L. Drayton, C. D. Findlayson, Chief Graham, Frank Hawkins, Controller Kent (as fire commissioner), J. A. Machado, Col. C. P. Meredith, P. D. Ross, Walter Ross, W. H. Rowley, W. M. Southam, E. Norman Smith, H. I. Thomas, Mayor Ellis, J. R. Booth, Chief Ross, City Engineer Currie, Mr. A. Alford, Ex-M.P., Dr. Chabot, M.P., E. J. Laverdue, Controller Parliament.

The following constitution was adopted: The objects of this association shall be to promote the science and improve the methods of fire protection and prevention, to obtain and circulate information on these subjects and to secure the co-operation of its members in establishing proper safeguards against loss of life and property by fire.