

came practical suggestions on this question. The most complete statement was made by Mr. Peter White, M.P., of Pembroke, and may be quoted, as one of the most important results from this Convention was the raising of and the suggestion of a means of solving the problem of protection of the timber from fire. His statement was as follows:—

Experience showed that the forest fires along the Upper Ottawa occur between May and August, those months inclusive, and his suggestion was to prohibit the starting of fires for clearing or other purposes within these four months. He would also suggest the division of the timber lands into districts each under the guardianship of a policeman resident within it; one duty of such functionary being to visit every settler towards the close of winter, say some time in March, to give him all necessary information and caution as to the requirements of the law in regard to this matter. He believed that there was very little incendiarism in the lumbering regions and that the bulk of the fires that occurred originated in ignorance and carelessness. Officials, such as he had suggested the appointment of, ought to keep a careful watch at all the principal avenues of districts liable to be laid waste by fire. He thought that the estimate offered of the loss by this cause, as compared with the product the lumbermen secured, was far too moderate; he believed it would be nearer the mark to say it was ten to one, than to represent the two as approximately equal. As to precautions it might be urged that as the lumbermen had so large an interest at stake they might be looked to to provide the necessary precautions. That was true in a sense, and he had no doubt that those concerned would willingly submit to the imposition of a small tax, if necessary, for the purpose of securing the required protection. The firm with which he himself was associated had for years looked after their own interests in this matter, but it was obvious to every one that it was out of the power of private individuals or business firms to act with the authority and force which the Government could command.

The discussion was continued by Hon. Geo. Bryson, Mr. Thistle, of Ottawa, Hon. J. K. Ward and others who supported Mr. White's statements, and on motion of Hon. Mr. Joly a committee was appointed to formulate recommendations to the Government on the subject.

To complete this phase of the Convention's work it may be added that the resolutions submitted by this committee were as follows:—

(1) The reservation of all pine and spruce lands unfit for settlement for lumbering purposes exclusively.

(2) The prohibition of burning brush by settlers in the vicinity of fir trees during May, June, September and October.