

TIMBER CONDITIONS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

WITH RELATION TO EXTENT, REVENUE AND LEGISLATION.

BY HON. R. F. GREEN, CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF LAND
AND WORKS.

It is very gratifying for me to have the honour and pleasure of meeting such a representative gathering of patriotic Canadians as are assembled here to-day in the commercial Capital of British Columbia, for I look upon the work undertaken by the Canadian Forestry Association as patriotism of the highest quality. Your work, gentlemen, as it presents itself to my mind, is essentially a labour of love, in which self interest has no place, your sole aim being the protection and perpetuation of the forests of Canada for the use and benefit of future generations. Prior to the foundation of your Association, a few individuals, scattered throughout our broad Dominion, devoted their time and energy to the subject of forestry, but it was only after many disheartening failures that these enthusiasts succeeded in arousing public interest, and were at length rewarded by witnessing the crystallization of their ideas in the birth of the Canadian Forestry Association. It is unnecessary for me to trace the progress of the Association or to enlarge upon the good work which it has accomplished, for the results proclaim themselves from the pages of the statutes of every Province from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The earnestness, patience, and pertinacity shewn by the Association throughout its campaign for reform in the laws relating to forestry, and the methods of lumbering, cannot be too highly commended. The task undertaken is a gigantic one—the awakening of a whole people to the realization of a danger which, to the thoughtless majority, seems so remote as to be imaginary—and like all great movements for the betterment of humanity, complete success can only be achieved by such ceaseless and untiring effort as will win the weight of public opinion, and the sympathy and co-operation of the whole population of Canada, to the objects of the Association.

I have alluded to those enthusiasts on the subject of forestry, who made it a study long before forestry became a live issue in the public mind of Canada, and my thoughts are drawn to a central figure in the agitation which resulted in the formation of this Association and the subsequent good work accomplished—