Mr. A. M. Pound, who is always indefatigable in pushing our interests with the reading public.

At the time of the Francis Parkman celebration, an exhibit of this historian's books was arranged by Mr. R. W. Douglas at the Carnegie Library, which was much appreciated. Mr. Douglas has been lecturing frequently at the Library on Saturday evenings on Canadian writers among other subjects. His notable work in encouraging the reading of our own literature has been productive of many good results. In the lecturing field Judge Howay has also been active, mostly along historical lines. He has recently been appointed editor for British Columbia of a series of biographies of the pioneer spirits who have built up our Country.

Along dramatic lines, reference has already been made to the work of Mrs. Mackay in writing plays. Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Aikins are still carrying on their splendid work in producing them. They have recently been engaged in Vancouver in training students with the aim of producing an all-Canadian company to produce native drama by native writers.

Mr. Herbert Beeman, the librettist of our membership, has been active along the lines of this branch of dramatic activity.

Mr. P. W. Luce, our noted humourist, has been contributing to "McLeans" and many other periodicals. I understand he has a novel about ready for publication.

I have confined myself so far to the efforts of our own members. As part of British Columbia's literary output, it is fitting to mention the following books published by other British Columbians.

"A Rosary of Pan," by Mr. A. M. Stephen.

"The Treasure of Ho," by Mrs. L. Adams Beck.

Collected Works of Tom McInnis.

"Westward and Other Poems," by Dr. Edwin E. Kinney.
(Published by D. A. Chalmers, British Columbia Monthly Office.)

It is with much regret that I have to record, during the year, the loss of two of our members, our late lamented vice-president, Dr. S. D. Scott, and Miss Annie A. E. Mellish. Arrangements have been made to transmit to the National Secretary some biographical records of the careers of these two writers for the archives of the Association.

During the year a committee was appointed to co-operate with the workers in the East to secure improved copyright legislation. Mr. R. L. Reid was convener, assisted by Messrs. Douglas L. Durkin, A. M. Pound, and myself. This committee, which had the co-operation of Mr. George Black, M. P., in its deliberations, did good work.

I have to acknowledge the very fine services of our Secretary throughout the year, to whom a great part of the success of the activities are due. Apart from his valuable work as editor of the Pacific Coast Motorist, Mr. Golder has been doing outside literary work, contributing to various periodicals in the Old Country. He was recently a winner of £25 in a short story contest conducted in England, the title of his entry being "Love versus Stamps." Our Treasurer, also has performed his duties with efficiency and zeal as his report will show. I also would thank the various members of the Executive for their active co-operation and support.

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THE DEVELOPMENT OF FOREST POLICY IN CANADA FOREST FARMING vs. FOREST EXPLOITATION

(James R. Dickson, Forest Branch, Ottawa.)

In the early days of settlement in Canada, little or no thought was given to the question of land classification. It was tacitly assumed that as soon and in so far as the forest cover could be removed, settlers would naturally follow the lumbermen and transform the cutover areas into farms. For a long time this plan appears to have been followed with satisfactory results, i.e., while the inflowing settlers were filling up the rich lands along the river valleys in Upper and Lower Canada. Gradually however, they were obliged in many localities to occupy the poorer and more rocky soils farther afield, which are naturally better adapted for growing wood crops than food crops.

Had our national policy of land development been based on the best permanent use for which the land was suited, this "absolute forest land" upon which settlement began to encroach about the year 1860, would have been as far as possible, withheld from the settler, pending a determining land classification survey. However, as stated, the old "trial and error" method of deciding land or site quality has largely prevailed in Canada both in federal and provincial practice, right to the present time. It has proved to be a decidedly wasteful policy, both with respect to human energy and natural resources, as witness for instance the deplorable conditions found during the forest survey conducted by the officers of the Dominion Government in the Trent River watershed in Ontario. During the present century, however, public opinion has begun to appreciate that conservation, or "wise use wisely regulated" as the late Sir Wilfred Laurier defined the term, must be adopted as the essential foundation of our national prosperity. As applied to absolute forest land, this means that we have all but reached the end of the era of reckless lumbering, whether or not conducted as a prelude to agriculture, and are about to enter the era of managed forests. It means that we have about decided to cease cutting and destroying all our forest capital on such lands and remain content with reaping the equivalent of the annual growth. It means that we will keep every acre a producing acre devoted to its one best use in order that our forest land may be farmed, not mined. It is in large part this appreciation of the vital need for basing our land development policy on the inherent crop-producing power or optimum site function of the soil itself, which has already caused the reservation and dedication of large areas for the production of successive crops of wood or the natural control of stream flow.

Inasmuch as Canada is a democratic country where public opinion determines government policy, this rapidly growing appreciation of the forest as a friend rather than an enemy, is shaping and evolving itself in policies of comprehensive land classification, controlled settlement, regulated cutting and effective measures for preventing the ravages of forest enemies—especially fire. Having thus decided to call into play the potent creative powers of science and human co-operation, as the controlling factors in true conservation, the Canadian people may with every justification and confidence, look forward to the perpetuation of their forest heritage.

GEO. T. WADDS

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