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CONVENTION POSTPONED.

In the last issue of the CANADIAN FORESTRY JOURNAL it was announced in good faith that the expected forestry convention would be held in conjunction with the meeting of the Commission of Conservation at some point in Quebec during the

second week in June. Circumstances arose later that caused the Commission of Conservation to alter their plans and cancel the June meeting; consequently the forestry convention was also postponed. The dates will be announced later.

NOTES ON NORTH AMERICAN FORESTRY.

By Prof. W. Somerville, Oxford University, England, in the Quarterly Journal of Forestry for April, 1910, (Vol. 4, No. 2).

Last year chance took me twice to North America. My first visit, in August and September, was chiefly confined to Canada, my second, in December, being to the Southern Appalachian Mountains, on the borders of Virginia, North Carolina and Tennessee. I cannot claim to have much that is new to tell, but at the request of the Editor I will gladly note down some impressions.

Sailing up the St. Lawrence, from the time that the New Brunswick coast is fairly visible, what strikes one at once is the large proportion of forest that has been burned. When one gets accustomed to the appearance of a burned forest one can recognize this state of things almost at any distance. All the smaller trees have been utterly consumed, but the large ones have lost their branches only, the stem remaining standing for years, dead and bleached. The first impression of Canadian forests was one that became emphasized as one journeyed westwards. Not until the Rockies were crossed did the train come in sight of a virgin forest that had not been felled or burned; and even in the humid climate of the Selkirk Mountains, and British Col-

umbia generally, it was rare to see an unburned forest. The causes of conflagrations are many, but the railway is the chief offender, and as the train labored up a steep incline, one could often see, looking back, that we were leaving fresh outbreaks of fire behind. There are laws both in the States and in Canada with regard to spark catchers on locomotives, but apparently they are generally disregarded. The Canadian Government is now realizing the extent of the loss that the country suffers annually through the needless destruction of timber, and a system of forest guards has been established, which already is making itself felt, and which will, in time, be of great service. If forest fires are common in virgin forest, they are still more so on cut-over land, where the top and lop is almost as combustible as dry gorse. In few cases does one, east of the Rockies, see any good natural regeneration of valuable species, the Spruce, Hemlock and Pine forests being succeeded, for the most part, by comparatively worthless Poplar (*P. tremuloides*) and Birch. In British Columbia, however, valuable trees (*Thuja plicata*, Douglas Fir, *Picea Engelmanni*) would