

object and main lines to that in Ontario. In Quebec the fire-rangers are chiefly nominated by the lumbermen. These officers have to report to the Government monthly not yearly as in Ontario, but their number is complained of as being too small. In this province a fire that endangers timber cannot be lawfully "set" in one area between 1st May and 15th September, and in a second district between 15th June and 15th September. Even permits to "set" fires are not legalized. There are now 60,862 square miles of timber lands in the Province of Quebec that are under license to lumbermen. In Ontario there are 250 men employed in forest and fire ranging service, a number greatly in excess of those in Quebec.

In Nova Scotia a protective service has not been organized but is reported to be under consideration. In 1902 there were 300,000,000 feet of lumber produced in Nova Scotia, one half of which was exported. In British Columbia, in the Fernie district alone, 200,000,000 feet of timber were destroyed in the last four years.

The revenue derived from the forests owned by the provinces of Ontario and Quebec amounts annually to over \$2,500,000, from which some idea may be formed of the enormous value of Canada's forest wealth, and how extremely important it is to protect such properties from destruction by fire.

To those interested in forestry—which embraces all interested in the trade of Canada, for from our forests is derived a large portion of the national income—we commend a perusal of the 4th Annual Report of the Canadian Forestry Association. The question of establishing a school of Forestry in Canada, like to that of Germany, is coming to the front as the need for it has long been felt.

MONTREAL BOARD OF TRADE AND THE CHAMBERLAIN POLICY.

The Montreal Board of Trade at the meeting on 18th inst. uttered no uncertain sound regarding the movement in favour of Imperial Preferential Trade. The following main resolution, which was moved by Mr. Robert Meighan and seconded by the Hon. George A. Drummond, was passed unanimously:

"That, having followed with great interest the action of the Rt. Hon. Joseph Chamberlain in advocating a system of tariff preference within the Empire, the Montreal Board of Trade now reiterates its belief that the best interests of the Empire would be served by the adoption of such changes in the fiscal policies of the several parts of Empire as would encourage preferential trade."

Mr. Meighan's speech in support of this important resolution was a forcible argument in support of the policy indicated. The following passages contain the key to this question as viewed from a Canadian standpoint:

"We must all be aware that the policy of Mr. Chamberlain in diverting emigration to this country, would not only be to the advantage of the manufacturers, by greatly increasing their market, but it would be of immense advantage to our farming population.

"The United States produced products similar to our own, and its surplus products competed with ours in the one great consuming market, that of Great Britain. When our farmers had a preference over those of the United States on grain and food products, it was easy to see what a great advantage would be theirs. Every farm in the Dominion would increase in value. As Canadians, we should do all in our power to strengthen the hands of the statesman who was standing up defending that policy, which we believed to be not only in the interests of the Empire, but of the colonies."

"Now let it be distinctly understood that there will be no dictation from the colonies, and there is no Canadian who will stand up and advocate the taxing of the poor man's bread. We are believers that if Great Britain taxes the imports of foreign foodstuffs and admits the colonial foodstuffs in free, she will reduce the cost of her poor man's loaf. We are in favour of a policy that will free the British Empire from being dependent on any foreign nation for its food supply.

"If Great Britain applies the proper medicine, and puts two shillings per quarter on wheat, and two shillings on 280 pounds of flour imported from a foreign country, she will accomplish the end she and we have in view, and the western prairies will then blossom like the rose. It is the enormous area of the present wheat fields, modern agricultural machinery, wide and cheap lands, and low freights that have caused the decline in the price of wheat, not free trade by any means."

It was the unanimous opinion of the meeting, that no negotiations should be opened, or re-opened for reciprocal trade relations between Canada and any foreign country which would involve discrimination against the United Kingdom or any Colony of the Empire.

The unanimity with which the Board of Trade of this, the commercial metropolis of Canada, endorsed the proposed Imperial preferential policy being advocated with such distinguished ability by Mr. Chamberlain will convince the people of the United Kingdom that the leading citizens of Canada support his proposal. The people of the United Kingdom will endorse the action of Canada and other Colonies in seeking to increase and knit the bonds of Empire closer by more intimate trade relations.

SHERBROOKE, QUE., has commissioned Messrs. Ross & Holgate, hydraulic and electrical engineers, to report upon the water power supply available for that city.