

The company will also have to adopt proper conservation methods for taking care of the brush and slash to prevent destruction by fire. We are doing the same thing in many of our present day leases, but, as I say, it is difficult to secure uniform regulations because we have not absolute control of the situation throughout the Dominion. One of the objections raised in this matter is that if the restrictions imposed are too onerous the competition of others who do not have to submit to such restrictions becomes serious. However, we are determined that we shall work into modern conservation methods in the cutting of our timber.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Unless the minister takes a strong attitude in this matter, all this money will be wasted. One of the greatest sources of loss is the utterly brutal, indiscriminate cutting of timber by our timber kings. They do not care what they do; they go in and smash and slash and cut off, profit being their primary object.

Mr. POWER: May I ask in what part of the country this indiscriminate cutting takes place?

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): I venture to say there is not a single lumber king in the whole of Canada who is not guilty of it.

Mr. POWER: Is the hon. member not aware that New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario have very strict regulations with regard to diameter limit, and so on, and does he not think that those provinces are in a position to have their laws obeyed and do have them obeyed?

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): We are discussing matters of federal policy, not provincial.

Mr. POWER: I asked the hon. gentleman in what part of the country this indiscriminate cutting went on, and he said all over the country.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Yes, and I do not think that is very far from the truth.

Mr. POWER: If the hon. gentleman does not know, he should not say so.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): I repeat that unless the minister is determined to take the strong stand which he declares for tonight, and in which I agree with him most heartily, it will be practically useless to spend this sum of money. I think he is going in the right direction; he has the right idea. It is only a question of a stiff backbone and good support from his own government.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: The minister has suggested that when timber limits were privately owned the Dominion government could not very well interfere. Now, I may have my own house, but the fire chief will come round, go down into my basement and see whether there is any rubbish there; he may go into all the conditions from the point of view of fire prevention, determine in what state I shall keep my back yard, and so on. It seems to me that whether or not these limits are privately owned the Dominion government has a right to prescribe certain regulations with regard to the manner in which the cutting must go on. I know best of the operations carried on in British Columbia. One cannot visit a logging camp there without recognizing that there is a very constant fire hazard in the immense amount of brush and slash that is left about; in fact the greater part of the country that has been logged over exhibits that condition. Is it not possible to provide detailed regulations with regard to cutting, even on private lands, just as restrictions regarding private property are imposed in our large cities?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I hope what I said did not create any false impression. Amendments are constantly being made to the timber regulations by all the provinces. We have conferences at Ottawa at which the regulations are discussed, and uniformity throughout Canada has now been practically secured. As to the province of Quebec, I do not think that any other province has made greater strides in forest conservation. There is no doubt that cases of gross negligence can be found throughout the country and that many fire hazards are permitted to exist, but you cannot clear them all up at once. We are just beginning to awaken to a realization of the danger and of the necessity of suppressing fires. But I think we are making very rapid progress in this direction and that uniformity in administration will be brought about by the conferences to which I have referred.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): I am afraid the hon. member (Mr. Power) may have gained a wrong impression from my remarks. I want to indicate at least that I have some practical knowledge of what I am talking about. On the eastern slopes of the Rocky mountains I worked for some time in the lumber camps, and not far from the present Black Diamond oil fields I saw them cut timber that should never have been cut, the ground that was cut over being left in a disgraceful condition.