

WESTERN CANADA!—THIS IS YOUR BUSINESS!

If Your Timber Resources Are Valued as Public Essentials, an Immediate Change in Dominion Methods is Due You.

Through the Canadian Forestry Journal, which regularly enlists the interest of more than two thousand public men in the three prairie provinces, and by various other channels, the long overdue change in public management of the choicest timber areas in the Middle West has been developed to such a point where postponement of the obvious remedy cannot prevail much longer.

By permission of the Parliamentary Committee on reorganization of the Civil Service, the Canadian Forestry Association will present a statement of its case at the Fall session of Parliament. It is noteworthy that the points contained in the Association's memorandum have never been discounted nor even seriously disputed from official or unofficial sources. Excerpts from the memorandum are as follows:

"The proposal we wish to bring before your committee in this instance is that the timber cutting operations on the licensed timber berths, which comprise the finest timber lands of the prairie provinces and the railway belt of British Columbia, should be brought into line with almost universal modern practice and placed henceforth under direction of the Dominion Forestry Branch. The latter represents the Dominion Government's forest conservation enterprise but at the present time has no actual authority over the really valuable timber of the Canadian West. Our reasons for this are of a specific and substantial nature. The public interest in maintaining a permanent timber supply transcends the interests of any commercial operator and is supposed to represent the motive of all Government administrators. The public interest requires that forest lands of no agricultural value shall be utilized for immediate requirements but with full provision for the maintenance of the capital values represented in maturing timber. In other words, the forest is to be regarded as a reproductive crop rather than a non-reproductive mine. This is the guiding star of all efficient European Governments and of the Government of the United States on the national forest domain.

What of the Future?

We are convinced that at the present time, the timber stock on Dominion lands, administered

by the Timber and Grazing Branch, is in a state of progressive depletion and that provision for future timber growth receives little, if any, consideration. While it is true a diameter limit is theoretically imposed upon all operators, this measure, even if enforced, is not in itself adequate to bring on a new forest. Each set of conditions within a forest area requires distinct forestry treatment, if conservation is to be more than a hollow term, and forestry is the business of technically trained foresters.

Get the Money—Lose the Forest.

We submit further that the present primary concern of the Timber and Grazing Branch is the collection of revenue, not the management of the country's timber supply on a basis of permanent production. For the latter responsibility, which takes precedence to the gathering of immediate revenues, the Timber and Grazing Branch has no administrative provision. It does not employ any forester, nor is there any means by which the staff of technical foresters of the Dominion Forestry Branch are given control of the work for which they are especially trained, and upon which they are already engaged as to lands in the Dominion forest reserves aside from the licensed timber berths.

The Example of Others.

The Dominion Forestry Branch was instituted as a conservation body to administer the timber resources of the West, not as a selling bureau, but to protect from fire and to build up the Western forests in the immediate and future interests of the Western people. Yet, the Dominion Forestry Branch and its constructive operations are restricted mostly to the poorest timber areas, while the main timber resources of the prairie provinces are thrown open to practically unrestricted exploitation.

The Provinces of British Columbia, Quebec and New Brunswick have taken action similar to that advocated for Dominion lands. In those provinces, the local forestry organization completely controls the administration of cutting on all Crown timber lands, whether licensed or unlicensed.

Undisputed Facts.

The Canadian Forestry Association has made these representations to your committee from a