

in the lake country to the north of this City. I am glad to state that, although we have just passed through one of the most critical fire hazards in the history of Canada, it has been definitely found that these air operations are of tremendous assistance in detecting, and to a considerable extent in the suppression of forest fires. The development of mechanical transport and fire fighting apparatus have revolutionized the methods of fighting forest fires.

I would emphasize, however, that our main forestry problem lies in the protection and proper administration of the natural forest; that is, in the aiding of nature to reproduce and take care of her own, rather than in resorting, wholesale, to artificial methods, which, after all, are in the long run by far the more expensive. If we will but face the forestry problem fairly and squarely, we cannot fail to realize that it is economic suicide to permit the splendid timber-growing lands, with which providence has endowed our fair country, to reach that stage of depletion where artificial methods will become necessary to restore the forest cover.

I must not fail to make reference to the splendid service being rendered by the Forest Service Tree Planting Stations at Indian Head and Sutherland, in this province. Perhaps you who enjoy the benefit of tree growth provided by a bountiful nature may not have had the same opportunity to view the results of this work. These stations distribute annually nearly nine million