

of \$115 per square mile for lands east, and \$140 for lands west of the Cascades is charged. Under this system about 11,000 square miles of timber land has been taken up, with the result that the best accessible timber of the province has been alienated.

Recognizing the danger of letting too much of such a valuable asset pass into private hands, the Government has stopped granting licenses and has reserved all unstaked timber.

As yet there has been no provision made for the utilization of the timber on these reserved lands, but it is expected that it will not be withheld entirely from use, but will be handled in a similar manner to the forests of the U.S. Forest Reserves, where timber can be purchased for immediate use and is paid for on the stumpage basis. Since in locating leases and licenses only the choice belts of timber have been taken up, there are many millions of feet left adjacent to the limits which, if to be used at all, must be cut with the main stand. To leave it would mean its total loss, either through fire or the prohibitive cost of exploitation.

The reservation of provincial timberlands came rather too late than too soon. The objects of encouraging the timber industry and increasing the provincial revenue had been secured to a sufficient extent, and it was time that the government looked to a future more than 21 years distant, when there will still be a need of revenue, and when, too, the value of the timber will have greatly increased. Already it is too late to reserve a sufficient amount of timber to effectively protect the timber industries of the future. Unless there is such legislation enacted as will encourage private holders in conservative utilization these forests of British Columbia, vast and wonderful as they are, will be destroyed more wastefully and completely than have the forests of Michigan and Wisconsin, and as most of the timberland is only valuable as such, the loss will be irreparable.

As it stands now some of the license holders have but 16 years, others 21 years to remove their timber, which means that on these licensed lands (exclusive of the leases), approximately 100,000,000,000 feet must be removed, inside of 21 years, an average of about 4,650,000,000 feet per year.

There is only one result of such enforced exploitation. The timber will be slaughtered in the cheapest and quickest manner, only the most profitable logs being taken out. Operators will have no interest in the remaining timber, and as a result not only will no regard be given to the reproduction, but no efforts will be made to protect the standing timber, of which it is safe to predict 90% will be destroyed by fire or be wind-felled on account of the opening up of the stand.