

session—and it is our solemn duty to so manage this trust as not to dissipate its value or perhaps render it wholly incapable of restoration.”

A suggestion made by Dr. Hough, which has perhaps had effect on the policy followed in Canada, was that experimental stations for the testing of trees on the plains of the West should be established. As Dr. Saunders was present at the meeting this hint may have been the starting point for the useful experimental work which has since been done in the Canadian West.

In a paper from the standpoint of the lumbermen Hon. J. K. Ward, of Montreal, pointed out what he considered to be improvements required in the management of the forests. Emphasizing the need of providing for the best use of the standing timber, both by protection and utilization, he made the suggestion: first, that there should be greater economy in manufacturing, both in the mills and in the woods, turning to better account the slabs, &c., in the former, and discouraging the making of square timber as much as possible in the latter; second, that on government lands the law as applied to pine should extend to spruce and tamarack, i.e., that no tree less than 12 inches at the stump should be cut down for commercial purposes; third, that fire should be more closely watched. On the last point the suggestion was made that the Government, which is most interested in the preservation of the forests, should employ as many men as are thought necessary in each agency to look after and trace the origin of fires on the public domain, giving them the power to take evidence so as to bring to punishment those who either wantonly or carelessly set fire to or cause the destruction of valuable property. In regard to settlement Mr. Ward urged that no lands unfit for settlement should be offered for sale and stated his view that in selling lands to settlers it should be made a condition of sale that twenty acres in every hundred should be given free, and that it should be forever kept as woodland.

A special committee had been appointed at a previous meeting to report on forest fires. The report submitted by this committee pointed out the damage done by forest fires. It said that the fires raging season after season through the forests have caused a greater and more irreparable destruction, inflicting deeper harm than the combined lumber industries of the past and the present day. The harm done was not only to the timber but to the soil, the constantly recurring fires resulting in the total destruction of every particle of organic matter in the surface soil, reducing it to a state of aridity and barrenness. The report did not make any suggestion as to a remedy. From several of the lumbermen in the convention, however, there