

efficiency in personnel and organization. The old days of unsystematic patrol were now intolerable. As the tabulating of timber losses became more and more accurate, people were beginning to see the money-saving qualities of timber guarding. Mr. Wilson showed that Nova Scotia offered a relatively easy proposition in fire protection, but that fact did not release the Province from its responsibility for adopting the only adequate protective scheme that experience had yet uncovered.

The Coal Companies' Side

Mr. J. W. Revere, of the Dominion Coal Company, gave many facts concerning the troubles of the coal companies in getting a pit prop supply. The present output of 3,500,000 tons required 1,200,000 pieces of pit props annually. Mr. A. M. Seeley, of the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company strongly reinforced Mr. Revere's warning.

Mr. Clyde Leavitt, Chief Forester of the Commission of Conservation, said that if the non-agricultural lands of Nova Scotia were not now growing timber, the wealth producing possibilities of the province were greatly reduced. The chief problem facing the province was to grow a new crop on its forest areas. The management of timber resources could not be left to chance. All other provinces owning forest properties found a carefully organized Forest Service essential; the need was no less in Nova Scotia. Fire protection would have to be organized if a new growth was to come up. While recognizing the financial limitations of the Provincial Treasury and the marked difference between New Brunswick with handsome Crown Lands revenues and Nova Scotia with very meagre Crown Lands income, Mr. Leavitt did not see how the latter province could profitably postpone remedial action when every provincial activity was suffering and was bound to suffer more from neglect of a basic resource. Mr. Leavitt summoned many convincing arguments for the engaging of a Provincial Forester and mentioned

the especially valuable consequences of co-operation of such an officer with the Board of Railway Commissioners in lessening railway fires.

A Ground Plan Now Ready.

Mr. Whitman brought out the point that Nova Scotia, like New Brunswick, has a Forest Survey (made by Dr. Fernow and party in 1909-10) which would be a ground plan for the Provincial Forester's organization.

Mr. McL. Robertson, representing the Davison Lumber and Manufacturing Company, spoke strongly in favor of having a Forester who could organize fire protection and assist all woodland owners in increasing the production of timber.

A vote of thanks was passed to Hon. Mr. Daniels for his courtesies to the Conference.

It is essential to point out that the campaigns hitherto carried on by the Canadian Forestry Association to promote public interest in protection of Nova Scotia's forests will be continued even more vigorously than before. The main effort is now to band together all lumbermen, pulp mill owners, shipbuilders, fishing companies, coal mine operators, and others with a direct or indirect interest in local timber supplies to supply an answer to the Government's query: "Where will the revenues come from for the support of a Provincial Forester?"

Not only must this point be answered, but the influence of the Special Committee will be so brought to bear upon the members of the legislature and the cabinet as to make further postponement of action inexpedient.

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