



What Fire has done in some British Columbia Forests.

should be made upon merit. Reference was made to British Columbia's great timber wealth and to the new Forest Law.

Sir Richard McBride and Hon. W. R. Ross were commended for their activity in the matter of forest conservation and development, and the delegates from other provinces welcomed in coming to assist in solving the forest problems not only of British Columbia but of all Canada, as the gathering would not lose sight of the national character of the Canadian Forestry Association.

HON. W. R. ROSS.

The Minister of Lands, in preface to his paper on 'The Guardianship of the Forest Wealth of British Columbia,' referred to the premier's remarks the evening before. Sir Richard, he said, had made it plain that this province, so far as the others are concerned, proposes to take the lead in matters affecting the modern policy of conservation of forests. It was particularly fitting that the present convention should be held in Victoria, as it gave British Columbia an opportunity to give firsthand notice to its friends from other provinces that from now on it would expect that for the latest word in forest conservation all must come here.

Mr. Ross, in his paper, traced briefly but concisely what has been done in British Columbia for the protection of the forests, and explained fully the composition and working of the forest branch of his department, starting his review from the appointment of the forestry commission, the work of which he praised highly. In the course of the paper he said:

TIMBER RESERVES.

'Since the end of 1907 no timber has been alienated by the government, and, while making provision for timber sales in the Forest Act last session, I was most

anxious to avoid burdening the new staff with much detail work of this description during the important organizing period of this year. The only sales we are putting in hand at present are those of small areas of timber that operators are anxious to take out while working on adjoining land, there being no question as to the desirability of disposing of these. In order to continue our policy of encouragement to the paper and pulp industry, we are conducting investigations of certain areas which are reported to be specially suitable for the production of pulp.

'Another duty falling to the forest branch is that of land classification. We have such enormous areas in this province that are extraordinarily fit—and fit only—for the growing of timber that every effort should be made to cut out from our timber reserves, as soon as possible, all land suitable for agriculture. Forest assistants with technical training have therefore been assigned to the examination of cut-over timber limits and leases in order that our departmental action may be based on accurate information. Fraudulent attempts to secure timber lands under cover of the Land Act will be balked by similar examinations.

'In the short time at my disposal, I but mention a few of the other matters that are receiving attention, for instance, the examination of certain regions in the interior, where it is feared that the forest is failing to reproduce itself; the special study by trained men into the effects and defects of the log scales in use in the province; the publishing of reliable information that will advertise our B. C. timbers and our forest industries; the study of waste in all its forms; and the campaign of publicity that we consider the most valuable, in fact, the fundamental, means of combating the public carelessness that