

that we should also show some zeal in providing for those developments which are to take place in the very near future.

The forest service, with the duty of organizing which I am entrusted must not only carry out the routine of administration with efficiency, and absence of red tape, and an ambition to give the public the fullest and quickest information and assistance in timber matters, but it must also use good judgment in doing preliminary work, the results of which will be needed two or three years perhaps from now. British Columbia as an important portion (and the British Empire's portion) of the western American forest area is one of the world's largest reservoirs of timber. The future of one of the greatest wheat growing regions of the world will be tremendously affected by our success or failure in handling our forest wealth; practically the whole industrial and agricultural future of our great Province hinges upon the selfsame question.

Neglect of this vital matter would be criminal; unremitting study must be devoted to every phase of it. We must have men familiar with the best ideas of modern forest management men who can wrestle with the practical problems of every day administration without losing sight of the main aims and objects to which all such work should be directed, namely, the fullest use of the forest and the quickest, safest production of the next timber crop. Scientific observation and investigation to warn us of the danger ahead by throwing searchlight beams into the future must be carried on side by side with the rough and ready, capable common sense handling of current business in the office and in the woods. Thus and thus only shall British Columbia protect herself from the despoiling and debauchery of her forest capital and the ruin of her lumbering industry—a fate that has already overtaken some of the finest forest regions of North America, and that will soon engulf the prosperity of others; thus and thus only will our great future, spoken of to-night by our Premier, be fulfilled. It is the duty of our forest service to work and secure co-operation between the Government, lumbermen and public in this Province, so that our forests, still magnificently intact in spite of years of waste and fire, may support a permanent lumbering industry instead of being stripped and burned to barrenness while the present crop is being harvested.

We will not repeat the experience of so many older countries whose Ministers of Forests have been occupied for the last quarter of a century in buying back and reforesting at the cost of many millions acreally the ruined areas that previous Governments should never have sold. As Minister in charge of Irrigation in this Province, I feel a double duty rests upon my shoulders to see that the perpetuation of our forests is not left to chance.

There is nothing spectacular in the work that has to be done. The essentials of success are a forest service staffed by capable men of the right type, in sufficient numbers; an annual expenditure that at the most need be but a modest commission on the annual revenue of two and three quarter millions, which that organization already collects; supervision directed towards increasing revenue, reducing cost of work and developing esprit-de-corps and the sense of public service among the men; and finally above all, the support of a strong Government policy, and the personal interest of the Executive. The great railroad corporations, departmental stores and manufacturing plants of this continent have shown what careful organization can achieve and it is my ambition to have the Government timber business run on the same lines of clear cut business efficiency.

But two weeks ago the election took place of the governing body of British Columbia's new university. I hope, gentlemen, that as has been done already with such success in more than one similar institution, —a school of lumbering will be made one of the conspicuous features of applied science in this university, in which