

4. Lack of popular knowledge and popular interest in a question, which does not seem to concern the present.

5. Lack of definiteness in the propositions for reform, which must naturally differ for different parts of the country.

6. The momentum of existing methods of disposal of the timber which benefit an influential class of citizens, the timber limit holders, who will naturally battle for their continuance, and the natural unwillingness of governments to make radical changes.

We have to recognize that especially this last reason is most potent. It takes indeed a strong government to disturb long established usages, especially when the change means curtailment of revenue, increase of expenditure, and possibly a strong opposition actuated by fear of material loss. Political exigencies make it desirable to defer action and to leave another administration to wrestle with problems that can be postponed. Yet, I believe, the administration which will resolutely and fearlessly undertake the reform is bound to have the support of the large public, for, it seems to me, the public is now astir on the subject.

To increase and utilize more fully this newly aroused public interest, to strengthen and stimulate hesitating governments and to advise them, and in general to forward more readily the progress of reform, it would appear proper to increase the activities of the Forestry Association by the creation of provincial legislative committees composed of the most influential members of the Association.

These committees, acting perhaps as sub-committees of the executive committee, would represent the interests of the Association between meetings. Their function should be to study local conditions, formulate and secure a hearing for propositions to the government and push them to realization, employ all local means for educating and arousing the public and altogether be in charge of the work of the Association between meetings. If funds were available the employment of a lecturer or lecturers by these committees and the propagation of suitable literature through the newspapers would do more than the publication of occasional reports and even of a quarterly journal, which usually reach or are read only by these already in the fold.

The final solution of the problem of conservative forest management will be found only when the importance of the subject is fully realized by the governments and the administration of the remaining timberlands is entrusted to a technically educated staff of a bureau or perhaps better of a forest commission after the precedent of the Civil Service, Railroad, Hydro-electric Commissions. To secure the appointment of such agencies would be, indeed, a worthy object of the Association Committees.

BIBLIOTHEQUE  
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