

551<sup>11</sup>

648.

# Canadian Forestry Journal.

---

---

VOL. II.

FEBRUARY, 1906.

No. 1

---

---

## CANADIAN FORESTRY CONVENTION.

---

The first Canadian Forestry Convention held under the auspices of the Canadian Forestry Association, was opened in the Railway Committee Room of the House of Commons, Ottawa, at 10 a.m., on Wednesday, January 10th, 1906.

There was a large attendance of representative men from all parts of the Dominion, as well as a number of leading foresters from the United States.

The meeting was called to order by the right Honourable Sir Wilfrid Laurier, G.C.M.G., Prime Minister, who invited His Excellency the Governor General to open the Convention.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL—Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my privilege to open this Forestry Convention which has met in response to the invitation of the Prime Minister to consider, and before it is too late, questions of the highest importance to the future well being of the Dominion. I do not propose to anticipate with more than a very few remarks of my own the addresses of the distinguished gentlemen who have been requested to place the results of their experience and their counsels at the disposal of those who form the opinion and make the laws of the Dominion. I will only say that although my experience of Canada has been comparatively short, it has yet been sufficient to impress me with the urgent desirability of focussing the best brains of the Dominion on the immediate consideration of what shall be done with regard to our forests in order to protect the soil on which the maintenance of our agricultural prosperity depends.

I have myself seen in India, in Asia Minor, in Greece and in Italy, extensive tracts of territory once inhabited by a strenuous, prosperous, numerous population, and now reduced to the misery of a barren desolation by the unregulated deforestation of their lands by a blind and selfish generation which had no regard for