

that no quarter of the Dominion could have been taken in preference to Vancouver and in British Columbia.

“It is no vain boast of the Canadians who live in the West to say that the timber wealth of this Province is illimitable, and that there is no place in the known globe where the timber can compare in quantity or in quality with the huge forests of British Columbia. (Applause.) It has been to those who have charge of the business of the country a serious matter when they come to consider just how far reaching their responsibility with regard to the timber industry really is. His Excellency has sounded a note of warning. He has spoken of countries where wanton waste has resulted in deforestation, and he told us that we must be careful in this Province not to repeat the same experience. The warning is well-timed. I find in my intercourse with lumbermen that very great surprise is occasioned among those engaged in the industry in the East at the wasteful practice which prevails here of allowing a great deal of valuable timber to lie and rot in the woods, which, down in the interior and eastern parts of the continent, would be considered a marketable commodity. The first duty of British Columbians is the preservation of the forests, and the economical operation of the lumber industry. (Applause.)

“Up to date British Columbians have been trying to do the very best they can with the resources at command. It must be remembered however, that the superficial area of this Province is much greater than the area of the Province of Ontario, or that of Quebec, or of all the maritime provinces put together. When it is considered that a mere handful of taxpayers has the responsibility of attending to this immense area, I think it must be admitted that the Province has done remarkably well. But the Province is not satisfied with what it has done. (Applause.) The people were quite sensible of the situation which stares them in the face. They know that the tremendous forest fires which rage in the summer and fall mean the destruction of thousands of dollars' worth of valuable timber. We know that away beyond the zone in which Vancouver finds herself, away down in the interior of the Province, the same waste goes on, and we realize that the responsibility rests upon us to deal with the problem as soon as it is possible to do so.” (Applause.)

After acknowledging the ready co-operation which the Provincial authorities receive in this direction from the Dominion authorities in the same field, Mr. McBride said it was a matter for great congratulation that such a spirit of co-operation was manifest in the Province between employers and employed in the lumber industry. To-day, he said, the mills of the Province were running, he believed, at their full capacity. They had orders that would keep them so employed for months to come,