

APPENDIX No. 4

next to secure from present day operations all of the good results we possibly can. There is no necessity to go into detail of what this work would involve; the question of forest patrol in itself is one that covers a wide range of discussion; the question of logging methods, how best the timber may be cut and removed and sent to the factory with the smallest possible degree of waste; also in what manner the provincial government should deal with the operators in the adjustment of the expense that is entailed in the patrol; and in the enforcement of the regulations that make for efficient forestry. I have no intention, gentlemen, of going into these questions in detail, but I can say this to you, that if you have the time to examine our forestry report, our Acts and our regulations—all of which may be had on your files here—I think you will agree, after you have carefully gone over them, that they have been most carefully prepared; that they are fair, reasonable and workable; that they will stand the test of fair impartial criticism. We have endeavoured through departmental and other experts to extract from your laws at Ottawa, from those at Washington, from those of the Mother country and European countries, and from those of all the other provinces, as well as some of the neighbouring states, the very best features they seem to afford, and you will find in the work of the legislature of British Columbia, to which I have just referred, I think, a good epitome of all the best elements. I think that it is but right I should say here, Mr. Chairman, that in this work we have not hesitated to come to Ottawa, from which source we have secured very valuable advice and two or three efficient officers. Nor have we hesitated to approach Washington, where we have also been fortunate in finding assistance that has proved invaluable. We have gone to Toronto as well, and then, of course, we have been in correspondence with all large centres where the lumbering industry is of any moment. We have tried to be thorough, and we have not spared expense in our thoroughness; and while this may be looked upon to some extent as a question of provincial concern, purely and simply, believe me, we as Canadians out there have tried to treat the whole subject in a national way, having in mind that the timber wealth of British Columbia and all that may result therefrom is not an asset that the far western province can claim as its property alone, but that rather it is a large and valuable national possession that we must consider we hold in trust for the entire Canadian nation. We have tried to assemble a staff of officials, alert, active on every occasion on which promptitude is demanded, men of sound judgment and with a high sense of duty. After all, in such affairs the personal element is an important factor, and while we may have laws and regulations that make for good conservation, we are of the opinion that unless we have the active machinery for the enforcement of those laws and regulations all our efforts may be fruitless. I think I may safely say, in passing from this timber question, that with our present statutes and our present official staff, you may safely depend on British Columbia giving a satisfactory response to the inquiry when made as to what we are doing out there to conserve what is essentially a national asset.

With regard to water-power, reference to which has been made by the chairman, of course, gentlemen, we know that it is but recently—and here I must speak in terms of years—that the question of development of water-power has assumed such large and practically national importance. There has been such a quick and yet such a substantial development in the growth of the agency of water-power as a great medium through which the industrial expansion of this country may advance, as to pretty well have taxed the ability of all Governments who have had to do with water-power, to ascertain just what laws will best suit and how most satisfactory results may be obtained. In British Columbia we have dealt for years past with the question of water rights by way of provincial legislation, trying to declare by statute a great deal of the law which had already been established as common law, and trying as well to supply perhaps any deficiencies there may have been in the common law of