

home consumption, especially with the rapid settlement of our plains region, there can be no question that high as timber is to-day, its value in the future will certainly increase.

The intelligent lumberman is per force a forester, and I am glad to say that ever since the Canadian Forestry Association was organized the lumbermen have been among its leading spirits and the invitation of the Association by the Western Lumber and Shingle Manufacturers' here, is an evidence that they appreciate the work that the Association is endeavoring to do.

I trust that good results will follow the deliberations of this Assembly.

I know it is quite possible to have interesting discussions, and yet fail of accomplishing what should be done, and I would suggest that you appoint a Committee on Resolutions, so that a united expression of the meeting may be obtained on some very important matters, and as this meeting is in British Columbia, I think that the members of the Association will agree that it will be both profitable and fitting that Forestry matters, as they relate to this Province, should be given first place, and I would further suggest that certain amendments to your Bush Fires Act should be considered. One of the most important is to prohibit the setting out of fires in clearing land within any proclaimed fire district during certain months of the year, unless the party setting out the fire has obtained a permit from the Fire Warden of the District in question.

Another is the question of a patrol service on Provincial timber lands, to which I have already alluded.

We frequently hear it said that certain fires did not burn any timber large enough for commercial purposes, only small stuff, is the expression, but let me say that the farmer might as well consider his unripe crop valueless, as for the nation to place no value on the splendid young growth of timber that you will see, if you have an opportunity of visiting any of the surrounding country that has been swept by fire some years ago. It is only a difference in point of time, and a score of years in the life of a nation, is less than one in that of an individual.

Gentlemen, we should remember that this is an inheritance that nature is bestowing on succeeding generations, and the Government of the Country should recognize that they are Trustees of an Estate, and that their duties are not only to those whom they at present represent, but to future generations as well.

The favorite maxim of Adam Smith, that Governments exist for the protection of life and property, has to be read in its broadest and most comprehensive sense in a new country with growing, as well as undeveloped, resources.