

amounted to \$92,975, of which \$60,545 was due to Government railway fires; \$3,750 was spent on fire fighting and 57,558 acres were burned over.

The meeting gathered from the remarks of Hon. Mr. Daniels that if the special committee of the conference could suggest a plan whereby the salary and expenses of the Provincial Forester could be paid, the co-operation of the Government could be counted upon to give effect to this new branch of administration.

Nova Scotia's Real Task.

Mr. Whitman, in opening the meeting, reviewed the excellent spade work done by the Western Nova Scotia Lumbermen's Association in developing the present Fire Act and securing the appointment of County Wardens. On the forest lands where fifteen years ago an export trade of 150 million feet a year was built, very little mature timber was now growing. Taking Western Nova Scotia as a whole, the task had become one of growing timber before operations could be resumed. Coincident with the decline of timber production on the non-agricultural areas of the province there had been a marked increase in the price of lumber, therein doubly emphasizing Nova Scotia's loss. The increase in value of timber was so great that investors were now buying cut-over lands to hold for speculative profit. One man in the Annapolis Valley held 155,000 acres, said Mr. Whitman.

The Chairman gave an outline of the dependence of numerous Nova Scotia towns upon contiguous timber areas inasmuch as they had very little agricultural land from which to draw sustenance. He then described the Provincial Forester's possibilities of service to practically every commercial activity. Not only could he supervise and direct the fire patrol work of the county rangers but he could work up fire prevention sentiment through education. For the latter highly important duty in forest protection, Nova Scotia now had almost no provision. The Forester could also advise the Government in the most efficient handling of the

remaining Crown Lands and would be at the service of all limit holders and woodlot owners in improving the productiveness of their holdings.

Mr. Robson Black, Secretary of the Canadian Forestry Association reviewed the efforts of the Association to awaken public sentiment on the need for a forward Provincial policy in timber conservation. Hundreds of private citizens, lumber companies, coal companies, ship-builders, etc., had addressed appeals to the Government to appoint a Forester and give him adequate support. Ten public meetings had been held in October by the Association. Many Boards of Trade had considered the question and notified the Government of their favorable opinion.

Mr. S. M. Brookfield, a well-known builder, expressed the belief that enough time had elapsed already without meeting the timber situation squarely. He was strongly in favor of the immediate appointment of a Forester.

Dr. Howard Murray, President of Dalhousie University, added his support to the objects of the conference.

Mr. G. H. Prince, Chief Forester of New Brunswick, who was invited to be present, gave a comprehensive description of the excellent work accomplished by the new Forest Service organized last year. He stressed particularly the value of the Forest Survey in order to give the Government an intelligent working plan for fire protection, timber sales, and land settlement. Ranger appointments had been held strictly free from political influence by a Forestry Advisory Board. Mr. Prince placed great importance upon the proper organization of the fire protection service and the use of educational means for prevention of loss.

Mr. Ellwood Wilson, Chief Forester of the Laurentide Company, told of the world-wide and rapidly growing interest in proper forest management. Forest protection had now become a specialist's job, demanding the keenest standards of