

# Dominion Forest Service

## Outline of Present Organization and Projected Lines of Work.

*T. W. Dwight, Assistant Director of Forestry.*

The Dominion Forestry Branch has, during the past three months, been directing its best energies to a comprehensive consideration of the possible means of taking, during the coming season, a big step forward in the direction of putting its organization into definite form. It has been for some time apparent that radical changes and elaborations in the general structure of the organization and in the methods of handling business were required. The urgent necessity for this has been brought about by large increases in the area of the forest reserves that followed the careful examination of the mountain regions in Alberta and British Columbia. These reconnaissances have been continued in the newly surveyed districts lying in the wooded belt of country extending to the north of the prairie regions of the Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. They have revealed the fact that there, too, are extensive areas that will be great sources of wealth and benefit to the rapidly growing population of the unbroken agricultural regions to the south, if they are managed scientifically with a view to continuing permanently on them the production of wood. With this situation prominently in their minds, the chief thoughts of the Director of Forestry and his chief lieutenants have been directed towards taking the steps necessary to enable the Forestry Branch to cope with problems that will be thrust upon them at a rate all too fast to enable it to keep pace. There has been, too, the feeling of the responsibility of the Dominion organization to take the leadership in efficient and progressive administration, so that their action might serve as a stimulus to the provincial organizations in making similar progress towards placing under wise and provident care the valuable resources entrusted to them.

### The Framework.

A tentative framework for the organization was outlined at the beginning of the season of 1912, and preliminary steps were taken to carry on the work in accordance with it. The practical problems immediately encountered when the actual operation was in effect showed, in innum-

erable instances, the necessity of rapidly developing the organization along the general lines laid down. The most pressing details requiring attention were brought prominently into view, and, with the purpose of considering these, a meeting was arranged at Ottawa of the Inspectors having charge of the different divisions of the work in the field. For the space of a month there were taken into consideration such problems as the general revision of the regulations governing forest reserves, the construction of fresh outlines to indicate the methods by which the business of the Forestry Branch should be handled, and the delineation of the present and future steps necessary to the developing of an efficient and well-trained personnel. The management of forest reserves for the fullest benefit of the public involves many problems. There is not only the control in a scientific manner of the disposal of the timber grown on them, but also the making available of the grazing lands in many places intermingled with, and inseparable from, the timberland. The disposal of the mining rights, which in the Rocky Mountain coal areas are enormous in extent and value, must be provided for. The regulation of the use of land for railways, summer resorts, towns and other numerous purposes is a many-sided problem. Fish and game must also be protected, so that the forest reserves may remain a permanent asset to the general public, not only on a material basis, but also from the standpoint of health and recreation. When this is realized, the extent of the problems to be met may be comprehended.

The subdivision of the organization into distinct branches to handle the various lines of work was an initial step. The duties of the Head Office at Ottawa were first outlined. Here the general plans must be submitted and considered, and the control and co-ordination of the work secured. Detailed records of all work must also be kept here, in order that information in regard to it may be put before the public through the agencies of the press and of government publications, and directly before the representatives of the people, the ministers of the Crown and the