

4 GEORGE V., A. 1914

Q. Does all the timber go to the settler?—A. No, no land is open either for sale or pre-emption which has over 8,000 feet per acre west of the Cascades, or 5,000 feet east of the Cascades, and in cases where land averages less than that quantity per acre, and the land is sold or pre-empted, the Government still retains a royalty interest in the timber, and that royalty is collected when the timber is cut.

Q. On every class of timber?—A. Yes. Except that the settler will, of course, cut timber for his own purposes, cut it or burn it. But if he cuts it for sale he is required to pay a royalty.

Q. As to your streams and water-powers, are they very many?—A. I am not an expert on water-powers; I have been around the province a great deal and have seen what appeared to me to be a great many powers everywhere, particularly up the coast. I am informed, for instance, through the Conservation Commission survey made during the past two summers of the water-powers on those streams emptying into salt water, that there are a million available horse-power between the international boundary and the southern Alaska boundary. The water-powers are administered by a separate branch of the Lands Department.

*By Mr. Paul:*

Q. What is the average size of a timber berth?—A. There is no limit to the size at all. For instance, we do not try to have the boundaries straight lines, as it is a rough country and every separate stream is practically a separate logging chance. We sell everything merchantable on that area.

Q. Supposing an operator wanted two or three square miles?—A. He could find an area like that.

Q. You would sell in small lots?—A. So far as possible we are not at the present time in favour of putting any Government timber on the market, because at present it would not realize its worth. Our timber sales at the present time are confined to complete or to fill out existing logging operations. A man will have two square miles in the middle of a valley. If he logs off his two square miles nobody can come back for the fringe of timber which lies at the head of the small valley or on the upper slopes. Therefore we endeavour to sell that fringe of timber when the main valley is being logged.

*By Mr. Best:*

Q. Supposing there is a bush fire?—A. When timber is injured or killed by fire, it is sold immediately if a purchaser can be found. Timber standing on agricultural land needed at present for settlement, is also sold as rapidly as possible, under conditions requiring immediate clearing of the land.

*By Mr. Paul:*

Q. What system do you have to get a knowledge of the amount of timber taken off the land by the jobber?—A. All logging camps are inspected on an average about once in three months. Most of our logging is on salt water. Every logger is assigned a special mark which he is required to put on his logs before they go into the water. If we find him not marking his logs there is a heavy penalty. The loggers mark their logs for their own protection, because if there is a storm and the boom breaks they cannot prove ownership unless the logs are marked. All the logs are scaled by Government scalers, and in that way we keep an absolute check on the quantity cut off the different areas. It requires a lot of routine work, but it can be worked out very satisfactorily.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. What becomes of the timber that breaks away from the boom?—A. You mean the timber that floats around until some person beachcombs it? It is mostly picked up.

Q. Is there any government regulations as to its disposal?—A. No provincial government regulation. It is all on navigable waterways, which are administered by Dominion statute.