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CANADIAN FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

SUCCESSFUL ORGANIZATION MEETING IN OTTAWA.—OFFICERS ELECTED.— DISCUSSION OF FORESTRY PROBLEM.

CANADA is rich in natural resources, and her wealth of timber area is unquestionably an important asset. Hence it is that those in power have seen fit to take steps to preserve and in places increase this asset, which is destined to become all the more vital and important as the various provinces increase in population. A Canadian Forestry Association has accordingly been formed, the promoters of which fully realize the absolute necessity of protecting standing timber and reforesting sections of the Dominion not enjoying the benefits, even blessings, of well distributed and healthy forest growths.

At the inaugural meeting, held in the Railway Committee room of the House of Commons, Ottawa, on Thursday, March 8th, Sir Henry Joly de Lotbiniere, Minister of Inland Revenue, presided. In the assembly were representatives from nearly all the provinces and territories, and the proceedings were conducted and the papers discussed in a manner that bespeak success for the Association. In his introductory remarks the chairman stated that those who were most interested in and intimate with matters affecting timber resources, encouraged by the success attending the efforts of the promoters and members of the American Forestry Association, had decided that the present was an opportune time to establish a Canadian association working along similar lines. The primary object would be to advocate and encourage judicious methods in dealing with our forest wealth. Canadians connected with the American Association knew the great success it had attained in this direction, and even greater success should be attained in Canada, where the forests still remain to a great extent under the control of the Crown. Another object was to awaken public interest to the dangers resulting from undue destruction of timber along the waterways and sources thereof. The chairman also considered that the public domain should be thoroughly explored and the proper resources and the best uses of the different portions properly ascertained. With this object still in view, a portion of the unappropriated land, he considered, should be permanently reserved for the growth of timber. He thought it a mistake to permit settlers to go upon land which is utterly unfitted for agriculture and which must be vacated only after the value of the timber thereon is destroyed. In conclusion, Sir Henry drew attention to the necessity of educating Canadians, through schools and otherwise, on the forestry problem, with respect both to the prairie and wooded districts, and to show

them the necessity of encouraging forest tree planting, from a climatic and economic, as well as an artistic standpoint.

It was unanimously decided to organize the Canadian Forestry Association.

A constitution was adopted, which provides that the objects of the association shall be as follows:

(1) To advocate and encourage judicious methods in dealing with our forests and woodlands.

(2) To awaken public interest to the results attending



SIR HENRY JOLY DE LOTBINIERE,
President of the Canadian Forestry Association.

the wholesale destruction of forests as shown by the experience of older countries in the deterioration of climate, diminution of fertility, destruction of rivers and streams, &c.

(3) To consider and recommend the exploration as far as practicable of our public domain and its division into agricultural, timber and mineral lands, with a view of directing immigration and the pursuits of our pioneers into channels best suited to advance their interests and the public welfare. With this accomplished a portion of the unappropriated lands of the country would be permanently reserved for the growth of timber.

(4) To encourage afforestation wherever advisable.

(5) To promote forest tree planting upon farm lands where the production of wood is too low, especially in the treeless areas of our North-Western prairies, upon highways and in the parks of our villages, towns and cities.

(6) To collect and disseminate for the benefit of the public reports and information bearing on the forestry problem in general, and especially with respect both to the wooded and prairie districts of Canada, and to encourage the study of forestry by the rising generation.

The following were elected as officers of the

association: Honorary president, Lord Minto; president, Sir Henry Joly de Lotbiniere; vice-president, Mr. William Little; secretary, Mr. E. Stewart, Inspector of Forestry, Department of the Interior, Ottawa; assistant secretary and treasurer, Mr. R.H. Campbell; directors, Messrs. Hiram Robinson, E. W. Rathbun, C. Jackson Booth, Thos. Southworth, Hon. G. W. Allen, Dr. Saunders and Professor Macoun.

At a subsequent meeting of the Executive Committee the following vice-presidents for the different provinces were appointed: Assiniboia, Hon. W. D. Perley; Alberta, Mr. Wm. Pearce; Ontario, Mr. J. B. McWilliams; British Columbia, Mr. H. Bostock, M. P.; New Brunswick, Hon. D. C. King; Quebec, Hon. S. N. Parent; Manitoba, Mr. Stewart Mulvey, Saskatchewan, Mr. Thomas McKay; Prince Edward Island, Hon. Donald Ferguson; Nova Scotia, Dr. A.H. McKay; Keewatin, Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba; Athabasca, Mr. Wilson, Yukon, Mr. William Ogilvie.

The membership fee was placed at \$1, life membership being secured by the payment of \$10. The following parties interested and who were present at the meeting forthwith joined the association. Sir Henry Joly de Lotbiniere, Prof. Wm. Saunders, Ottawa; W. D. Perley, Wolsley, N.W.T.; William Little, Westmount; G.W. Allen, Toronto; Jas. Honidag, Quebec; Finlay Young, Killarney, Man.; R.H. Campbell, Ottawa; M.J. Butler, Deseronto; D. James, Thornhill, Ont.; J.B. McWilliams, Peterborough; E. Stewart, Ottawa; Frederick Todd, Montreal; Alex. MacLaurin, Charlemagne, Que.; Robt. Bell, Ottawa; Robt. Hamilton, Grenville, P. Q.; John F. McKay, Montreal; Hon. E. J. Davis, Toronto; F. W. Gibson, Crown Lands Department, Toronto; Aubrey White, Crown Lands Department, Toronto; Thos. Southworth, Crown Lands Department, Toronto; J. M. Macoun, Ottawa; W. T. Macoun, Ottawa; Hiram Robinson, Ottawa; Gerald Spring Rice, Pinse, N. W. T.; B. Spring Rice, Pinse, N. W. T.; R. F. Stupart, Toronto; J. R. Duff, School of Science, Toronto; C. E. C. Usher, Montreal; Sir Wm. Hickson, Montreal.

The annual meeting will hereafter be held in Ottawa on the first Thursday in March, and special meetings shall be held at such times and places as the executive may decide.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

At the afternoon session interesting and instructive papers were read. The first was by Dr. Bell, L.L.D., M.D., F.R.S., of the Geological Survey of Canada, and is printed below:

CANADA'S NORTHERN FORESTS.

By ROBERT BELL.

The subject of the distribution of the forest trees in Canada has come particularly under my attention, as I have had the opportunity of travelling for forty years in the north country as geologist for the northern region. The forests of North America exhibit a variety and