

on the work it has so far done through its Forestry Committee and through the Chief Forester of the Commission, who deserves unstinted praise for his active push, persistency and efficiency.

The Commission has to its credit, first of all, the inauguration of most thorough control over forest fires along railways, which was brought about through co-operation with the Railway Commission and with Provincial and Dominion authorities. In this connection, it has to its credit the publication of some three volumes of discussion on means of suppressing fires and has successfully stimulated private endeavour in this direction.

In this connection, also, the Commission has made an extensive study and demonstration of the result of cutting and subsequent fires on cut-over lands with regard to reproduction. This study was made on a 2,000 square mile sample, the Trent watershed, and a similar investigation has been made in British Columbia, showing that our optimistic anticipations of natural replacement of the valuable timber without human assistance are largely doomed to disappointment.

The Commission was very properly engaged early in ascertaining the status of our forest resources and has completed and published exhaustive forest surveys of two provinces, Nova Scotia and British Columbia, and has surveyed part of a third, Saskatchewan. It has been also instrumental in bringing about, encouraging and aiding stock-taking in a fourth province, New Brunswick.

These are all legitimate and praiseworthy activities of the Commission, whose functions are largely educative. But I would have particularly applauded the latest development of the Commission's forestry work, namely, the establishment of permanent sample plots to study in detail the results in reproduction and growth and different treatment and logging of our pulpwoods. This work has been conducted by Dr. Howe, in co-operation with several paper companies. The readiness with which this co-operation (financial and otherwise) was secured is proof of the practical value of this investigation. Indeed, this is the first systematic attempt to lay a basis for silvicultural practice, without which the forester is helpless, and the Commission is the best agency for securing this fundamental knowledge, as could be readily argued.

That this work of the Commission is done largely in co-operation with the staff and students of the Faculty of Forestry of Toronto University is, of course, specially gratifying to me.

There is one more important political direction in which the Commission, in my opinion, should exert itself, namely, the transfer of the forest resources of the Middle Provinces to those provinces. Such transfer would undoubtedly lead to the exploitation of these resources. Forestry is provision for the future, and such provision means present curtailment of revenue or present outlay for the sake of future revenue. Will and can the provinces afford such a financial policy?

Wishing you a successful meeting,

Sincerely yours,

B. E. FERNOW