

## LUMBERMEN'S WISHES ARE MADE KNOWN

Forestry Commission Hears Claims--Prof. Craig of Massachusetts Gives Information on Reforestation and Preservation of Timber.

A. S. Goodhue, M. P., having arrived, the forestry and timber commission was able to proceed with its inquiry yesterday afternoon shortly after three o'clock. The commission consisted of Hon. F. J. Fulton, A. C. Flumerfelt, and A. S. Goodhue.

J. A. Harvey, K.C., said he was appearing on behalf of the B. C. Lumber and Forestry Association. He was hoping to assist the commission in every way in his power.

Hon. F. J. Fulton asked that those who had statements of fact to make should do so under oath.

Flumerfelt said:

W. A. Anstie, secretary of the Mountain Lumber Manufacturers' Association and also of the British Columbia Lumber, Logging and Forestry Association, the latter an organization comprising a majority of the holders of provincial timber, who is watching the progress of the commission in behalf of his associations, was accordingly sworn and he then made the following statement:

As I understand it, at the present time the timber of B. C. may be divided under six classifications:

- 1st. Crown granted timber, which carries title in fee to both land and timber and most of which was granted as subsidies in aid of the construction of various railways throughout the province. It is estimated that there are about 1,500,000 acres of this class of timbered land, and owing to indefeasibility of title, and the fact that it was among the first taken up, crown granted timber is generally looked upon as the most desirable in the province. Under the Railway Subsidy Timber Royalty Act, 1891, a royalty of 9c. per M. was reserved to the crown on all timber cut from lands granted in aid of railway construction, while at the present time a tax of 2 per cent. is levied on this class of land which is valued for assessment purposes at from \$5 to \$10 per acre, according to location.

- 2nd. Leased timber, of which there is about 800,000 acres alienated from the crown, the title to which provides for indefinite renewal, and carrying annual rentals during the present term of the lease, most of which are from ten to fifteen per cent. These leases were originally granted for periods of twenty-one to twenty-five years, but in 1901, for reasons similar to those now advanced by license-holders, the government enacted legislation at the petition of the lessees providing for perpetual renewal. The royalty of leased timber is fixed at 50 cents per M. for the unexpired portion of all existing leases.

- 3rd. Dominion license timber, including all timbered lands on each side of the main line of the C. P. R., and the control of which is vested with the Dominion government. This strip of territory extends for sixteen miles on each side of the main line of the C. P. R., and has been disposed of under yearly licenses, renewable in perpetuity, at annual rentals of \$32 per square mile on the first five years, and \$5 per square mile on all other berths. There is a royalty of 50 cents per M. on all timber cut from Dominion licenses.

- 4th. Sixteen-year special timber licenses, of which a limited number are in existence, and which under the provisions of the amendment to the Land Act, 1895, are renewable for sixteen years only at annual rentals of \$140 and \$115 per square mile, and carrying a royalty of 60 cents per thousand.

- 5th. Hand loggers' licenses, which permit of the operation within circumscribed areas of hand loggers who are not allowed to use steam power or machinery. The annual fee for such licenses is \$25.

- 6th. Special timber licenses: There are over 17,000 square miles, or about 11,000,000 acres, now held under this title and which undoubtedly constitute the most important part of the forest wealth of the province. Special licenses are transferable and are issued for one year only, but renewable each year for twenty-one successive years. The annual rental is \$140 per license west of the Cascade range, and \$115 east of the Cascade range, and in the electoral district of Atlin. The present royalty on all special license timber is 50 cents per thousand.

Petition Presented.

In February, 1908, the following petition, with some minor clauses which have since been granted, was presented to the government with the endorsement of the Mountain Lumber Manufacturers' Association, the Coast Lumber and Shingle Manufacturers' Association, and the B. C. Timber and Forestry Chamber of Commerce, and is still urgently desired by those interested:

1. That the present yearly licenses be made renewable until the timber held thereunder is logged off.
2. That the present annual rental shall not exceed during the term of the license \$140 west of the Cascades and \$115 east of the Cascades.

3. The attention of the government is called to the fact that when claims are surveyed there will undoubtedly be found many small areas of merchantable timber lying between the adjoining claims which in the best interests of all concerned should be logged at the same time as the limits they adjoin and that statutory provision should be made covering this point.

4. That inasmuch as there is a constant uncertainty amongst operators as to the amount of the royalty to be paid in future for timber, and because of the fact that there is already a difference in royalty paid on different holdings, we believe it to be in the interest of the government to fix a royalty at

50 cents per thousand during a term of years and that the said royalty should at no time exceed the amount in force on timber held under said lease.

Support of Stand.

Some of the reasons amongst others advanced by the timber-holders in support of their petition are as follows:

Stability of title being the first requisite for the substantial development of any industry the interests of not only lumbermen but of every citizen of the province demand attention by the government and the enactment of legislation which will convey protection for vested interests.

At a most conservative estimate the 17,000 special licenses now in force carry at least 140 billion feet of standing timber, and the present annual production of lumber, which is marketed with difficulty, is under one billion feet annually—a large percentage of which is logged from crown grants, leases, Dominion licenses and hand-loggers' licenses. While undoubtedly the markets for British Columbia lumber will rapidly expand, the utter impossibility of cutting anything like 140 billions during the unexpired term of the special licenses is quite obvious, and the enforced logging of this timber within the present limit for renewal would be most detrimental to government revenue and the prosperity of the industry for these reasons:

- a. The annual license fees which now constitute almost one-half of the government revenues would cease to be paid as rapidly as the limits were culled and abandoned. The government would also lose but its equity in the royalty by the destruction by fire of the lower grades of timber left standing on the hastily culled lands. These losses, the provincial government would undoubtedly amount in the aggregate to many millions of dollars.

- b. The operators—loggers and millmen alike—would be forced into the most desperate struggle with over-production in all lines, greatly to the detriment of legitimate profits on the investment capital.
- c. The spoliation of more than half of the provincial forest assets within two decades would be nothing short of a premeditated and even a national calamity. The twenty-one year period of timber slaughter would be followed by a much longer period of timber scarcity and famine prices, with no prospect of relief by timber importations.

Forest Conservation.

The problem of forest conservation is receiving world-wide attention at present, and it is well known that the most advanced nations in America have given the subject thoughtful investigation strongly advocate low taxation of forest lands, with efficient fire patrol, as the most practical method of ensuring the greatest possible preservation of the existing timber supply. The timber holders are willing and anxious to co-operate with the government to secure greater protection from forest fires, and it is hoped that the commission may be able to recommend a better system of fire-guarding than at present in use.

While the present rentals are higher for special license timber than for any other class, it is expected that the government will be asked to reduce them, but it is urged that these rentals be made definite and be fixed by statute for the term of the license.

With regard to royalty, the position of the license-holder is eminently fair and reasonable, their contention being that royalty should be based upon the amount of timber actually cut, and not upon the amount of timber held under license. It is urged that the commission should at no time exceed that in force upon that held under provincial lease, crown grant or Dominion license. An arrangement would be made class legislation and an undue discrimination which could not fall to work a great hardship.

Witnesses will appear before your honorable body in the different parts of the province where sittings will be held, and present evidence from the standpoint of those familiar through actual experience as operators, with the necessity of the framing of a petition before mentioned, which we firmly believe to be not only equitable but essential to the substantial growth and development of the lumber industry, the maintenance of provincial timber revenues and preservation of our forest wealth.

Possibly it may appear superfluous at this time to lay such emphasis upon the matter of perpetuity of tenure for special licenses, when the government has already shown that the wisdom of enacting legislation providing permanent titles is apparent to them, as evidenced by the premier's announcement last session to the effect that a measure granting perpetuity of tenure would be introduced at the next session of the legislature.

Capacity of Mills.

Examined further, Mr. Anstie stated that the capacity of mills in the mountains was about 3,500,000 feet in ten hours and those on the coast for the same time. Neither in the mountains nor on the coast, however, did they work to their capacity the year round. It would take 140 years at the present rate to cut all the timber held.

The revenue received from licenses last year amounted to \$2,500,000. The average time the lumber held had to run was 18 years. If the limit was enforced it would have the effect of making the holders slaughter the timber they held.

The way to conserve the forests, he thought, was to keep the taxes low and to prevent fires. If the fires were kept out the country would reforest itself. He regarded the lumber industry as a trust, he asked that they should at no time exceed those on crown grants or the Dominion railway belt.

On witness stating that the government had promised to bring in legislation asking to make leases perpetual, Mr. Fulton explained that the statement was not quite correct. They were prepared to extend the time, he thought, but not to make it perpetual.

In reply to Mr. Fulton, witness said they had to market in competition with the mills drawing timber from the Dominion railway belt, and for that reason they objected to paying more royalty than the others paid.

Mr. Flumerfelt: "It is simply a matter of competition."

"Yes, that is the chief reason."

In answer to another question Mr. Anstie said they would like either a fixed royalty or a sliding scale, so that they would know what they had to sell.

Mr. Fulton said that in Washington and Oregon, as well as in New Brunswick, the operators paid into a fund for fire protection. Would the operators here be willing to do the same?

Mr. Anstie gave as his opinion that they would be willing to give half the amount required. From meetings he had attended he felt sure that all would be willing to do that.

Fire Protection.

Mr. Fulton said that was one of the points they were anxious to find out. If they would do this he thought a good system of fire protection could be worked out. He expressed the opinion that the association should discuss the matter.

Mr. Flumerfelt said he was reading that the lumbermen in one of the states paid four cents an acre for fire protection.

In answer to Mr. Fulton, witness said that the best and most important means of fire protection was to protect against fire. If this was done the young trees would grow up by natural process. The fire, however, destroyed the humus in the soil and then the young trees often could not grow.

Mr. Anstie said there was an objection to hand logging as the operations were conducted on other people's property.

In regard to imposing conditions in conducting logging operations witness said he thought the associations he represented would agree to the imposition of reasonable conditions, but the opinion of practical loggers would be of more value.

Wants Exact Information.

Mr. Flumerfelt asked if the information offered were an estimate or were the figures really correct.

It was an estimate, witness said, but based on reliable figures.

Mr. Anstie thought the markets would increase and with it the output, but it would not be affected to any extent by the new United States tariff on lumber.

He did not think the government should control the cutting of timber on the lands of the lumbermen. He did not think the watersheds were in danger.

It had been suggested that land should be held for a second crop. If there were a market for the stuff now left in the woods the operators would remove it. The removal of all the timber would be a disaster to the industry. A sufficient inducement to make them cut the poor logs.

A. T. Frampton.

The next witness was A. T. Frampton, who said that in order to make the tenure more secure and in that way to make it more saleable, they should issue timber bonds which would be freehold. He had seen the condition of logged-off lands, and it was very bad. If the lands were freehold it would not be left this way. He suggested that on the payment of a certain sum, enough to produce the same amount as at present received, a freehold title should be granted.

He could point to no country where a similar system was in force, but thought it would be a good plan. A perpetual license would be an improvement but would not improve the land.

Prof. Craig.

Professor Craig, of Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, who was a Canadian formerly, appeared before the commission. He said that in British Columbia they were starting on an entirely different footing to other countries. If he said anything about the value of the timber resources he would be simply uttering platitudes. The province had planted over 3,000 acres of trees last year. Trees were distributed by the state government at a nominal rate, and in this way much land was being reclaimed and an interest taken in forestry.

In British Columbia he noticed places where the land had been burned off and the brush was left. When the country was burned off a different growth often followed. Otherwise the forest trees succeeded themselves. The problem here was to perpetuate the present growth in the best way. In order to do this the prevention of fires should be the first aim of the lumbermen. In Idaho and Washington a patrol was a regular thing, and was well-organized so that it was possible to get from one part to another.

Reforestation.

In the matter of reforestation the professor told of experiments they were making in New York state. When the land was clear completely and replanted and the other was to leave a part of the growth. He was inclined to favor the German method. It had been worked out after many years of experimentation.

In Germany the undergrowth was kept clear in order that fires were prevented. While he did not understand the conditions obtaining here, he wished to impress upon them the necessity of conserving the forests.

In answer to Mr. Fulton, Prof. Craig said that two crops could be grown together at the same time. The young trees will not start until the old ones have been removed if the growth is at all thick.

Speaking of the work of the United States federal authorities in the matter of forests, he said they gave practical advice to owners of forests and made surveys. Mr. Pinchot was head of the department which does this work. The service has been developed largely by Mr. Pinchot himself.

He felt sure he would give all the particulars the commission might ask in regard to his work.

State Foresters.

In some parts of the country exprop-

tion was granted from taxation when the owners of the lands lived up to certain demands. State foresters were kept in nearly all parts of the United States.

In answer to Mr. Goodhue, Prof. Craig said it was difficult to find out the cost of reforestation in Germany. The young trees were planted on the borders of the forests, and were looked after with the young saplings on their backs. When a tree was cut the stump was taken out at the same time.

The conservation of the forests in Germany was partly for the purpose of preventing freshets and droughts. That was one of the important things in the mind of the German government.

In answer to Mr. Harvey, Prof. Craig said where the natural conditions made for reforestation, advantage should be taken of it. The difficulty was to deal with the debris coming from the logging operations. This provided ready tinder for the lighting of fires.

Michael Carlin, Ernest Solly, of the B. C. Lumber Association, and William Blake, more gave evidence before the Timber and Forestry commission this morning. The burden of the evidence of the first and last being that fifty of ten acres would have a good effect on the matter of reforestation and the prevention of fires.

Mr. Solley gave some interesting figures in regard to the E. & N. land grant. There the land is sold outright with the timber, as it becomes taxable as soon as the timber is touched, or the land alienated. A good deal of this land again reverts to the crown when the timber is taken off. This witness advocated burning the debris left by the loggers while Mr. Carlin thought it better to leave it on the ground to help hold the moisture.

He had been in the lumber business 18 years. He had operated in the neighborhood of the Columbia river and Shuswap lake, most of it being from Dominion licenses. They paid a bonus for getting a certain tract, it going to the highest bidder, and after that \$5 per acre and 50 cents stumpage. The bonuses would not exceed \$50 a square mile.

The timber averaged about 12,000 feet in the stump. The licenses were absolutely renewable.

Mr. Carlin advised doing anything to keep the lumbermen in business. In his experiences they were unable to finance the operations.

He thought if the licenses were made perpetual, there would be more interest in taking care of the timber.

Speaking of the amount of land in the hands of the lumbermen, Mr. Carlin said there was not more than 20 per cent. of the land fit for agriculture. After the land was logged off if the fire was kept out the forest would grow up of itself.

He gave an instance in the upper country where after ten years he had got more from a second crop than from the first.

In order to continue the interest of the owners in keeping down fires in logged-off land he advocated allowing the leaseholders to continue their holdings at a small rental. He suggested that the government should act as a fertilizer to the young trees.

Speaking of the effect of fire in changing the kind of timber, Mr. Carlin said that in the twenty years he had been in the business, he had seen the same timber being seeded, but if it was burned over some other kind of tree sprang up.

Mr. Carlin did not advocate clearing up and logging off, but he thought it would be a good plan to cut down the boughs in order to make them lie close to the ground.

In answer to Mr. Fulton, witness said that there was nothing on the Dominion licenses to show that they were renewable, but there was an understanding to that effect.

For the last five years he operated on the Columbia river the Dominion government had helped them in the matter of fire protection. The amount they were expected to pay was charged up against them, and the loggers selected their own wardens, but they were paid and controlled by the government.

There had been no bad fire since the system was installed. The C.P.R. had been in the work of protection. In answer to Mr. Flumerfelt, Mr. Carlin said he thought the limits on the coast would go considerably higher than on the interior.

Mr. Flumerfelt asked in regard to the cost of fire protection to the acre on the Dominion government lands. Mr. Carlin did not remember, but it was more than one cent.

Witness said the Dominion leases were still held after the lands had been cut over, but no reduction was made in the amount paid. The E. & N. Railway Company, stated that his company was much interested in the timber question, as they had still a number of acres of land, and they followed the logging operations, and then a small growth sprang up. A great deal of arbutus usually sprang up on the mountain sides.

If fire were kept out there would often be a second crop in twenty or twenty-five years after the first cutting.

Mr. Solley gave an instance of fire starting from friction caused by a rock slide in the Alberni district.

The land in the E. & N. belt was usually heavily timbered and cost too much to clear to make it worth logging. Some of the mountain land had no value whatever.

In answer to Mr. Flumerfelt Mr. Solley said that the debris was very valuable to the donkey engine. Sparks from these ignited the loose debris in the neighborhood. He was of the opinion that the slashings should be burned by the loggers under the regulation of a government inspector.

In answer to Mr. Evans Mr. Solley

said the cost of burning the debris would be less than \$5 an acre. The fires usually started from the needles, which were very inflammable.

There was no royalty on the timber when it was sold, but when alienated the land became liable to a tax.

William Blake more said he had lived in the province for eight years, but had done business here for twelve years. He had been manager of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Co., and since he had been in Victoria he had been agent for a big syndicate holding timber lands. The average amount of timber on the Coast was greater than in the Kootenays. He thought that if the tenure was longer the leaseholders would take more interest in their lands.

The company he represented were unable to get money from the banks owing to the conditions of the lease. The consequence has been to arrest the development of the areas. Their opinion was that if the tenure was made more secure they could get to work. He was also of opinion that the present plan of confiscation for non-payment of fees was unusually severe.

From a public standpoint he regarded protection from fire. Railways were responsible for many fires. He had seen millions of dollars' worth of timber destroyed by fire. The right-of-way of every railroad should be properly cleared before a train was allowed to go over it.

In answer to Mr. Fulton, Mr. Blake admitted that there was much more timber held than was needed at present, and that there had been over-production recently.

The minister of lands cross-examined Mr. Blake more at some length, showing that the development of the limits depended more on the markets than on the fixity of tenure.

In answer to Mr. Goodhue, Mr. Blake more said he thought it would be an advantage to have a few large mills rather than a number of small ones. He thought the fact accentuated the need of making the tenure more secure.

WILL STOP RAIDS BY

JAPANESE POACHERS

Consul - General Announces

That Steps Have Been Taken

by Government.

(Times Leased Wire.)

San Francisco, Cal., Aug. 17.—Consul-General Nagai announced at the Japanese consulate to-day that he has received information from Tokyo that the Japanese government has taken steps to end the depredations of Japanese sealers upon the American seal rookeries of Alaska.

Heretofore the Japanese government has subsidized deep-sea fishermen for the purpose of encouraging the industry. The subsidy has been withdrawn, and it is expected that without the government's support the Japanese sealers will find poaching not so remunerative, and they will cease their illegal tactics.

The Japanese raiders have been so insistent in their attempts to poach upon American rookeries that the United States government has been compelled to patrol the Alaskan islands with revenue cutters. During the past season the American revenue cutters have seized a number of offending Japanese sealing schooners and arrested the crews. Most of the cases against the sealers are now pending in the courts of Alaska. There have been serious clashes between the Japanese raiders and American guards during the year.

In one of the raids, American guards on St. Paul Island killed five Japanese sealers and arrested twelve others.

ASKING FOR DIAPHANE

AT MACAULAY POINT

Shipmasters' Association Have

Presented Petition to Ralph

Smith.

The president and secretary of the Shipmasters' Association went to Nanaimo on Saturday last and met Ralph Smith, M. P., by appointment, and there presented the petition which has been circulated on the waterfront asking for the erection of a fog diaphane in the neighborhood of Macaulay Point, at the entrance to Victoria harbor.

Fogs are not very prevalent in the neighborhood of Victoria, but now and then navigation is difficult at that point for vessels entering and leaving the harbor. A diaphane is said to be just what is wanted during such times. The petition asking for it has been circulated and signed by almost every captain in the port.

Mr. Smith is having the petition sent on to Ottawa and is very hopeful of securing the diaphane at an early date.

ROBBER SLAIN IN

FIGHT WITH POSSE

Pistol Duel Follows Attempt to

Blow Up Safe in Post

Office.

Lawrenceville, Ills., Aug. 17.—A bold attempt to rob the postoffice and bank at Lawrenceville was frustrated early to-day when one of a number of vegmen was killed by the police. The residents of the town were awakened by a terrific explosion, and soon almost the entire populace was on the streets. An investigation showed that an attempt had been made to blow open the postoffice safe. A posse of citizens headed by the police surprised the vegmen at work. In a pistol battle that followed one of the men was instantly killed. Several of his companions climbed through a window and escaped.

KILLED BY TRAIN.

Anacortes, Wash., Aug. 17.—Grounded to death beneath the wheels of a Great Northern passenger train, was the terrible fate of E. S. Rogers, a well known resident of this city, this morning. Rogers was afflicted with deafness, and was on his way to work when hit by the train. Rogers was 51 years of age and married.

## MINISTER IS WELL RECEIVED

HON. W. TEMPLEMAN

AT PRINCE RUPERT

Questions Affecting City Dis-

cussed at Meeting With

Citizens.

During his visit to Prince Rupert Hon. Mr. Templeman has had a busy time. On the evening of the day he arrived he met the members of the city council, and the members of which presented him with a list of needs which they urged should be supplied as soon as possible. These requests were as follows:

1. A better mail service between Prince Rupert and the Queen Charlotte Island and Portland Canal.

2. A reduction in telegraph rates from \$1.75 for ten words, to ten cents per word.

3. The establishment of a wireless telegraph station at Prince Rupert.

4. The removal of a sand and gravel bar at Metlakatla.

5. The building of a drawbridge in the permanent G. T. P. bridge connecting the island and mainland, so as to admit of navigation through the back channel.

6. The establishment of a government experimental farm along the line of the G. T. P. in the interior.

7. Federal buildings for Prince Rupert.

8. The purchase of government supplies for the boats, from Prince Rupert merchants.

Mr. Templeman, on rising, was greeted with applause. He said it was needless for him to remark upon the happiness that it gave him to be among his constituents, in view of the generous treatment accorded him by the electors last February.

The council of the board of trade had submitted a long list of requests to the Dominion government. He had read the Prince Rupert papers fairly, and had expected to find an even longer list of requests on his arrival here. He was now quite prepared to believe that the people of Prince Rupert were very much in earnest respecting the development of their town.

As for a mail service to Stewart, and the mail service to adjoining points, he would do everything in his power to give a thoroughly suitable service.

As for the service to the Queen Charlotte Islands, the minister said that if any such subsidy contract would accept \$200 per week for a weekly service a subsidy would be granted for the purpose. In the evening a banquet was tendered by the minister by the citizens of which he and his party left on the Princess Royal for Skagway en route to Dawson.

With regard to better mail facilities between Prince Rupert and Queen Charlotte Islands, the minister said that if any such subsidy contract would accept \$200 per week for a weekly service a subsidy would be granted for the purpose. In the evening a banquet was tendered by the minister by the citizens of which he and his party left on the Princess Royal for Skagway en route to Dawson.

SEATTLE ATHLETES MAY  
COMPETE IN CALIFORNIA

Seattle, Wash., Aug. 17.—Having made almost a clean sweep of the Amateur Athletic Union championships, both junior and senior, last week, members of the Seattle Athletic Club are looking for more words to conquer. Major Wm. Ingles, superintendent of the club, said to-day that it is probable a strong team will be sent to San Francisco to take part in the athletic program arranged for Fortola week in October. An effort will be made to assemble most of the athletes who competed in the championships, and to send them to California. The victorious team will be banqueted to-night at the club by the directors and special festivities have been arranged for the athletes who now formally break the long training period. President D. C. Conover, of the S. A. C., will preside.

JEFFRIES-JOHNSTON FIGHT.

NEBRASKANS CELEBRATE.

Gather in Force at A.-Y.-P. Exposition to Honor Nebraska Day.

Seattle, Wash., Aug. 17.—Nebraska Day is being celebrated at the exposition to-day, with Governor Shallenbarger and members of his staff, together with hundreds of former residents of the prairie state taking part in the programme. The Nebraskans were formally welcomed at 11 o'clock in the New York state building by President Chilberg of the exposition, the response being by John P. Hartman, president of the Nebraska Club of Seattle. Following the speeches a short reception was held after which an informal luncheon for the governor and members of his party was served.

Chicago, Aug. 17.—Sam Berger, representing Jim Jeffries in the preparations for the Jeffries-Johnston fight, said to-day that he will leave to-night for California, where he expects to make what he believes will be one of the arrangements for the great world's championship battle. He said that he had received a big offer of \$62,000 from Sam McLean of Los Angeles. Berger wants to see the fight at San Francisco, and find out what he will offer for the fight before he goes any further. From Berger's attitude it is clear that he expects the fight to take place in California.

SCHMIDT'S THROW.

Washington, D. C., Aug. 17.—Charles Schmidt, of the Detroit baseball team, accomplished a remarkable feat on Sunday when he threw a baseball over the Shoreham hotel, an eight-story building. The ball was later found in Fifteenth street. The distance from where Schmidt stood to Fifteenth street is nearly 400 feet.