

Permanent Forest Reserve Now

Rocky Mountains Reserve Set Aside by Parliament—One of Largest in Existence—A Haunt of Game—Adequate Appropriation Essential to Administer It

Two years ago the Commission of Conservation began agitating for the establishment of the Rocky Mountains Forest Reserve. This involved the setting aside in perpetuity of nearly 18,000 square miles of forest territory on the Eastern slope of the Canadian Rockies. During the spring of 1911, this Reserve was formally established by Act of Parliament. It extends from the International boundary northward for 600 miles, and includes all lands on the Eastern slope above an altitude of 4,000 feet. It thus covers the headwaters of the Prairie rivers which rise in the Rocky Mountains. Owing to the great altitude of much of the Reserve, much of the timber is scrubby and of little commercial value. It, however, makes excellent forest cover, and so is of the greatest value in preserving a relatively uniform flow for the rivers that flow across the prairies. If it were not for this regulating factor, the great wet lands of Alberta and Saskatchewan would be subject to alternate floods and drought.

A Game Preserve

Further, the Rocky Mountains Forest Reserve is one of the largest national parks in the world. It is annually growing in favour as a resort for tourists and hunters. It abounds in a great variety of game, which is being wisely protected. Thousands of people visit the Reserve every year to enjoy the Mountain scenery, the fishing and the hunting. It is not improbable that in a few years the Reserve will be provided with numerous chalets such as are found in the Swiss Alps, for the convenience and safety of tourists.

Adequate Appropriation Needed

It is obviously of great importance that the Reserve should be carefully protected from fire, and be otherwise administered so as to maintain the forest growth. With this end in view the Forestry Branch of the Department of the Interior is organizing an effective administrative force, and is planning to cut trails and construct telephone lines through the Reserve. The Forestry Branch, however, has been hampered by lack of funds. Mr. R. H. Campbell the Director of Forestry, stated recently, that while he had asked for an appropriation of \$110,000, or about one cent an acre, to administer the Reserve, the Government had reduced the amount to about \$80,000. Commenting on this at the recent annual meeting of the Commission of Conservation, Hon. Clifford Sifton said:

"It is quite possible that if this matter were represented to the Government a little more strongly, it might be willing to increase the amount. I do not know how you feel about it, but, for myself, I do not think that the Government is spending money for any purpose that is more important than that; and it seems to me that this is one of the occasions when we can come in contact with the Government for the benefit of the public."

Acting on this suggestion the following resolution was later passed by the meeting and afterwards presented to the Government: "THAT in view of the enormous importance of this object, the Commission of Conservation recommends that an appropriation of not less than \$110,000 be provided for forest protection in the Rocky Mountains Forest Reserve during the fiscal year, 1912-13."

Commercial Peat

After Many Failures Peat Can Now Be Produced on a Commercial Basis—Support Needed to Ensure Further Development

"There is no possible source from which cheap fuel can be procured to take the place of what is now being used which, in any respect, compares with peat. Ontario has an enormous area of peat bogs. The trouble heretofore has been that, until a very short time ago, the method of treatment was not economically successful; and it does not appear to be realized, that at the present time, that difficulty has been overcome and that an economically successful method of treating peat is now in existence and has been practically demonstrated within a few miles of Ottawa within the last two years. So, it is now a fact that, economically and commercially, the immense peat bogs of the Province of Ontario are available for fuel if a very small amount of commercial enterprise is used in connection with the subject.

"I am bringing this matter before you especially because of its great economic importance, and because of the fact that I think the movement requires a little support at our hands. It quite frequently happens that in important branches of work of this kind you get to the point of doing very valuable work when, for some reason or other, you are shut off. There is obviously some little movement being made at the present time to shut off the activity in the development of peat fuel, and I think this is a preface for the Commission of Conservation to exert what little influence it may have, to declare its position on this question and to use its influence on the Government to induce them to carry on this important work."—Hon. Clifford Sifton at Third Annual Meeting of the Commission of Conservation.

ADDRESSES GIVEN ON CONSERVATION

Addresses are given from time to time by the officials of the Commission of Conservation before public organizations interested in the development and conservation of natural resources. Since the beginning of the year, the following addresses have been given:—

By Dr. Chas. A. Hodgetts, Medical Adviser of the Public Health Committee:

"Tuberculosis," a series of four lectures before the Halifax Anti-Tuberculosis League on Jan. 25-26.

"Conservation," on Feb. 8, before the Canadian Club at Woodstock, Ont.

"Relationship of the Medical Practitioner to Public Health" on Feb. 29, before the Academy of Medicine, Toronto.

By M. J. Patton, M.A., Assistant Secretary:

"Conservation and the Engineer" at Annual Engineering Dinner, School of Practical Science, Toronto, on Jan. 18.

By F. C. Nunnick, B.S.A., Agriculturist:

"Work of the Lands Committee of the Commission of Conservation," on Feb. 21, before the Ottawa branch of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers; on March 8, before Farmers' Club at Perth, Ont.

"Crop Rotation in relation to the Conservation of Soil Fertility," on Mar. 5, before a farmers' meeting at Lachute, Que.; on Mar. 6, before a farmers' meeting at Hemmingford, Que.

"Agricultural Education and the Improvement of Rural Social Conditions," on March 5, before farmers' meeting at Lachute, Que.; on March 19, before Farmers' Club at Beech Ridge, Que.

Publications of the Commission of Conservation 1910

First Annual Report.
Pure Water and the Pollution of Waterways.
Report of International Commission on Control of Bovine Tuberculosis.

1911

Second Annual Report.
Agriculture in Ontario and Unsanitary Housing.
Ottawa Typhoid Fever Epidemic.
Lands, Fisheries, Game and Minerals.
Animal Sanctuaries in Labrador.
Water-Powers of Canada.
Prevention of the Pollution of Surface Waters.

The following pamphlet off-prints from *Lands, Fisheries, Game and Minerals*, have also been published:

North Atlantic Fisheries Dispute.
Canadian Oyster Industry.
Agriculture in Canada, 1911.
Articles on Fisheries.
Game and Fish.

Water-Powers on Georgian Bay Canal

Commission of Conservation Makes Recommendation Regarding the Development and Disposal of Surplus Power on the Canal

In January last, the Railway Committee of the House of Commons referred to the Commission of Conservation for its opinion, the bill to extend the charter of the Montreal, Ottawa and Georgian Bay Canal Company. This Company, which was incorporated in 1891, proposed to build a canal between the St. Lawrence river and the navigable waters of Georgian Bay by way of the Ottawa river. Under the charter which was about to expire the Company was empowered to generate and dispose of hydraulic, electric and other kinds of power produced in connection with the canal, but which was not required for canal purposes.

The Chairman of the Commission of Conservation suggested the following amendment to the bill extending the charter:

"The development and sale of power otherwise than for the operation of the canal shall be carried on by the Company only when authorized by the Governor-in-Council, and upon such terms as to rental to be paid by the Company and prices to be paid by consumers, as may be prescribed by the Board of Railway Commissioners for Canada."

The bill as finally passed provided that the prices charged for power disposed of should be fixed by the Railway Commission, but did not include the other proviso suggested by the Commission of Conservation, viz., that the Company could proceed with the development of surplus power only after being so authorized by Order-in-Council and after terms as to rental had been determined upon by the Railway Commission.

Meat Inspection is Urgently Needed

Canadian Dealers Cannot Export Diseased Meat But Can Sell It For Home Consumption.

In the matter of meat inspection, Canada is much behind the times. The Government, some years ago very properly made arrangements for the inspection of meats for export. No diseased meat may now be shipped out of Canada, but it can be sold in Canada. Why should Canadians be content to consume impure and dangerous food products such as these?

Developed Water-Powers

As a result of investigations undertaken by the Commission of Conservation, it has been ascertained that there are 1,016,320 horse-power developed from water power in Canada.