

APPENDIX No. 4

Q. Just one question about your fire protection force. Does the government offer any prizes to parties cutting timber to prevent fires?—A. No, there is no system of encouragement, because if there is a fire they are the biggest losers. Any person logging is required to put out, at his own expense, fires in his own logging works. It is rather a penalty as an encouragement instead of a prize.

By Mr. Warnock:

Q. I would like to ask if there is a system of grazing regulations in the forest reserves such as there is in Idaho or Alberta?—A. We have no grazing regulations. But in a general survey of the province in the last two years we have found that there are probably 20,000,000 acres of first-class unused range in the province, chiefly north of Lytton and west of the Fraser river. Some of it is east, but the best portion is west of the Fraser river. The only way in which the country can be made, so far as can be seen, to support an agricultural population is by making use of the public range. The areas of agricultural land which lie on the lower benches and in the narrow valleys are chiefly valuable for the growing of rough crops, and are so scattered that even if a person did grow grain crops they could not get them out and sell them at a profit. They could take cattle in and raise winter feed, and there would be an average season of two and a half to five months when the cattle would have to be fed. I have estimated that the area will carry a million head of cattle. There are few users of the range at the present time. There are about 7,000 sheep, 10,000 horses and 66,000 head of cattle on the range at the present time.

Q. That would be principally north of the Canadian Pacific railway?—A. Most of them are north of the main line of the Canadian Pacific railway. Before adopting any regulation for the use of this range, we are making an investigation of the present conditions under which the range is used, and we are getting into contact with all the cattle owners so that we can work out regulations which will be mutually profitable. There will be some regulations necessary for the stock owners' benefit, because if the stock owner can register his claim to the use of certain grazing areas he will be able to put the stock industry on a more permanent basis.

Q. The reason I asked the question was that regulations are just being inaugurated now in regard to forest reserves in Alberta, and I think also in Saskatchewan. I was rather interested to know the fees that will be charged and the regulations that will govern the various classes of stock. Will these areas that you spoke of be accessible to sheep?—A. There are some localities that sheepmen who have been in there say are perfectly adapted to sheep raising. It may be that the success of sheep raising will remain to be demonstrated, because other people who have had experience say that there are reasons why you cannot raise sheep there. It would be necessary in any event to keep sheep and cattle on different ranges.

The stock men in the southwestern and northwestern states are now very strong supporters of this policy of a permit system for handling grazing lands. The Government gets a revenue from it and controls the final disposal of the land, in case the land is improved by further discoveries in dry farming, or in any way becomes available for a better use than grazing. The stock man also has the assurance that whenever he has a certain number of cattle he can get grazing for them. He is protected against encroachment.

Mr. CHARLTON.—I would like to move a vote of thanks to Mr. MacMillan, whose address has been very interesting and instructive. Mr. MacMillan was at one time in the Department of the Interior here for several years. The British Columbia Government was then enterprising enough to secure him as their chief forester. I have met him at several forestry conventions and we have always had a great deal of useful information from him. It is claimed that British Columbia is the farthest advanced in fire protection of any of the provinces. I do not know, Mr. MacMillan, whether you mentioned the rate charged for that.