

[William Bunting Snowball]

PRESIDENT SNOWBALL'S ADDRESS.

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,—

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I regret exceedingly that circumstances prevented me from being present with you last year, as I was sorry to miss not only the educational advantages of a meeting of this sort, but also the personal intercourse with other members of the Association, for the exchange of ideas.

On behalf of the Canadian Forestry Association, I welcome all the delegates and other friends, who have met with us on this occasion, and trust that our meeting will be a most profitable one.

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Personally, I do not think that any Government should stop with the establishment of Forestry Schools, but they should also appoint lecturers to visit the forested portions of the different provinces and give practical talks on forestry subjects, in language easily understood by those who cannot attend college, but who are anxious to extend their present knowledge of the subject. Talks on fire fighting and precautions against fire; on economical methods of cutting and logging; the building of roads, bridges and dams; the value of forest cover in regulating stream flow; the advantage of trees to the farm, methods of raising trees from seed and planting them at the least cost; how to combat the diseases of trees; with some practical instruc-

tions in Forest Mensuration methods, how thinnings should be made, etc., could surely be arranged for. A course of a month or six weeks in each section would arouse in our people an intelligent interest in the management of our forest and woodlands and enable them to realize the real value of this national asset and the tremendous importance of conserving it for all time to come.

I also think that each province should have the whole of its wooded area gone over by persons properly qualified to run survey lines between each block; to correctly map the lakes, rivers, creeks, ridges, roads and other topographical features, to prepare plans showing the kind and quantity of timber on each block; to report upon the nature of the soil; and to state what lands are suitable for farming and what should be retained for timber growth. They might also report what blocks will never produce large timber and where the thinning out of the timber would be an advantage. For this work I would suggest that our University forestry students and their professors be employed during the holiday season and that they have associated with them Crown Land Surveyors, practical lumbermen and land cruisers. I would also suggest that a geologist and mineralogist accompany each party, as I am sure that they would gather information of inestimable value to the several provinces.

All over this country we have minerals waiting to be discovered, as for example, your Cobalt region in Ontario and a mountain of iron in New Brunswick that might have been a source of wealth years ago and was finally discovered only by the merest accident.

Both the Federal and Provincial Governments should be urged to enact more stringent laws regarding the setting of forest fires and to appoint permanent fire guardians. In my opinion; a fire guardian should be kept on every ten miles square (i.e., on every 100 square miles) and no person should be allowed to go upon the public domain without a permit obtained from the nearest head fire warden. In this way the wardens would be in touch with every one who entered the woods.

At the head waters of all the principal streams there should be forest reserves for the regulation of the water supply and fish weirs should be maintained to enable the finny tribes to reach their spawning grounds and perpetuate their species. Where possible, information should be obtained regarding the water flow of the streams at different seasons and the probable all year horse power that may be used for industrial purposes.

Last year our President referred to the export of Christmas trees and suggested that it should be prohibited. In New Brunswick many of the farmers export small spruce and balsam from their own land and I presume it is the same in the Province of Quebec.

From one of our New Brunswick papers I quote the following:—

Hopewell Hill, Nov. 16.—“The parties who have been buying up Christmas trees for the American market are loading their cars this week at Riverside, and will start the trees as soon as possible on the long run to Pennsylvania, where on Christmas Eve they will be loaded with Santa's gifts to Uncle Sam's youngsters or to those of them at least who are able to afford the luxury of a real Christmas tree. And the price is quite considerable, the trees sell

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The question that arises in my mind, is why should we prohibit the export of small trees and allow those of a larger size to go out of the country instead of manufacturing them into pulp and paper here and thus leave hundreds of thousands of dollars in the hands of our own people, and why should we permit the cutting of small logs on the public domain if they would grow larger?

In New Brunswick this is a live question, and our forest preservation depends upon a proper solution of it. The seriousness of the situation is indicated by the following extract from an editorial in the St. John's "Sun":

"THE POLICY FOR NEW BRUNSWICK.—It is a pleasant custom of people in heavily wooded countries, like New Brunswick, to think and speak of their timber wealth as inexhaustible. As a matter of fact the accessible timber lands of this Province are about seven million acres in extent. Allowing a fair average of 2,000 feet per acre, this means that New Brunswick owns to-day about fourteen billion feet of merchantable timber.

"In the United States, in 1906, the total cut of sizeable material was about forty billion feet, so that the whole of our forest areas would only serve the present demand of the United States for about four months."

This question has been discussed at Board of Trade meetings, Manufacturers' Association meetings, and by the Lumbermen, who met at the call of the New Brunswick Government in February, 1907, and passed an almost unanimous resolution, favouring the prohibition of the export of pulpwood from Canada.

I do not intend discussing it now, nor do I think a resolution on the subject would be advisable in our Association, unless it would be one asking the Dominion Government to give this subject serious consideration.

The Americans want our pulpwood to save their own. We want their mills, not only to increase our industrial employment, but so that they will have a large investment depending on our forests and thus give them an interest with us in conserving our forests.

Let me quote a few paragraphs from statements made by the International Paper Company before the Ways and Means Committee in the Tariff hearing in the United States, which I think fully explains the situation and the feeling of our American Cousins towards our forest domain. After naming their various mills and stating where they are situated they go on to say:—

"In each of these places the Company's mill is an important factor in the maintenance of the community and in many of them it is the only productive agency, besides indirectly furnishing a market for the outlying farm districts. The company employs normally about 7,000 persons at its mills, besides its operations in the woods. There are thus directly and wholly dependent upon the wages paid by the company, estimating five persons to a wage earner, 77,500 people, besides to a less extent farmers, store-keepers, manufacturers of supplies and transportation companies. Except for its

wood operations in Canada, almost every dollar it receives is expended in the United States."

"It is estimated that it furnishes annually 2,500,000 tons of freight to the common carriers of the country."

"The company owns or controls about 900,000 acres of timber lands in the United States, and 3,100,000 acres in Canada. It is operating upon these lands in the United States in the most conservative manner possible, in all cases leaving the small growth for the future and avoiding all the waste possible, felling trees with the saw instead of the axe, as formerly, and using the tops of the trees to the fullest extent possible. At some points in New England it has bought abandoned farms having a young growth of spruce on them, and is holding them for its future needs. It is also making some experiments in replanting. It is holding its lands in the United States, in so far as it is practical and economical for future use. It may be added that its operations in Canada are also as conservative as conditions will allow."

"In 1899, its first full year, the company made 380,000 tons of paper. In 1907, it made 495,000 tons, an increase of 30 per cent. It makes all the pulp required for this quantity of paper, and is thus not dependent upon any other company or any other country for any if its requirements of pulp. It does, however, get from Canada about 35 per cent. of the pulp wood required, mostly from its own lands; this coming in free of duty. For the handling and transportation of this wood a large amount of money has been permanently invested, so that it may be laid down at the mills at the lowest possible cost."

"It, (the present duty) is not adequate to prevent extensive importations of news paper from Canada, as already shown, and any reduction would mean an increase in importations and loss of business for us. It would check the growth of our production and the removal of the duty would close a number of our mills. We believe that under any conditions the free admission of paper would compel us to abandon many of our plants, and either drive us out of business or compel us to build mills in Canada."

"We know of no way by which this result can be avoided if we are brought into competition with free paper, which is what Canada seeks. We believe that the movement in Canada in favour of putting an export duty on pulpwood, or prohibiting its exportation is not likely to be successful, because it is not founded on any sound or just principles, and we further believe that if it should be successful, it would result in such great injury to Canada that such a policy would be short lived.

"One of Canada's greatest assets is her forests, but they are only profitable to her in so far as they are productive. We sympathize with any bonafide desire on her part to perpetuate her forests and are willing to submit to any reasonable restrictions in our operations in the Canadian woods, which have that end in view, but Canada has a very great area of timber lands, and they can produce a large annual yield without impairing them—all that her mills and ours will want for generations to come.

"Canada is exporting \$33,500,000 worth of forest products a year and is doubtless eager to increase her markets for lumber, etc., and her exports thereof. Her exports of pulp wood in 1907 amounted to about \$5,000,000. It looks inconsistent to say the least, for her to seek to increase her exports of lumber generally, and to check the exports of one particular variety; especially as pulp wood is very generally distributed throughout the Dominion. The consumption by the United States is comparatively insignificant compared with Canada's extensive supply.

"We are therefore forced to the conclusion that the opposition to exporting pulpwood is not based on any genuine apprehension on behalf of forest pre-

servation. On the contrary we have conclusive evidence in published statements of the exponents of this policy that the real motive is to hamper the industry in the United States in order to build it up in Canada. The movement is supported by the Canadian paper and pulp manufacturers, who desire to increase their output and to secure a market for it in the raw in the United States. In other words, they wish to with-hold from us the raw material which we desire, and force us to take the manufactured product.

"Although the Province of Ontario has actually prohibited the export of pulpwood cut from the Crown Lands, and the Province of Quebec discriminates against us by charging 25 cents more per cord for stumpage on pulpwood if it goes to the United States than if manufactured in the Dominion, it seems improbable that either the Canadian people or the Government will ever sanction so unfriendly and unusual an act as placing a general prohibition or embargo upon the exporting of pulpwood.

"It would seem, however, to be only the part of prudence for this country to prepare itself should hostile action be taken. We advocate, therefore, that the countervailing duties provided for in section 393 and 396 should be remodelled so as to make their application more sweeping in case Canada assumes an aggressive attitude. Should your committee desire our views more in detail as to how this should be done, we shall be glad to submit them."

I would also quote from Dunn's Bulletin for December 10th, 1908:—

"FORESTS MUST BE PROTECTED.—Those Americans who are contending for free trade in lumber between Canada and the United States, says the "Monetary Times," do not attempt to hide the fact that they would denude the Dominion of her forests if they got the chance, and this would happen if they were given unrestricted entrance. Last week a deputation of the Pacific Coast Lumbermen conferred with the Ways and Means Committee at Washington, and Gifford Pinchot, on the Lumber Tariff.

"In the course of a lengthy conference Champ Clark, representative in Congress from Missouri, openly stated that free trade, would tend to prevent devastation of American Forests, and it did not matter if Canada was denuded of hers. The Tariff fight in the United States has developed into a contest between the mill owners of the Pacific Coast and the owners of timber, who live south of the boundary, but whose limits lie north. These latter see how they can cut for their own market if given an opportunity and go through the forest as fast as fire; as they did in the vast areas of Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota, which were once wooded. Present riches are all that are sought and Canada should assist British Columbia to prevent the ruthless cutting of timber."

I have made these quotations to bring forcibly before your minds the value of our forest product and the necessity for conserving it, and also to show that the Americans want our wood to save their own.

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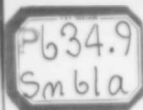
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"GREAT OAKS FROM LITTLE ACORNS GROW."—Great credit is due those who dropped the little acorn in 1900, as we already have a great tree that is spreading its branches over the whole Dominion.

In closing I cannot do better than quote from an address made by the Honourable James Wilson before the American Forest Congress held in Washington in January, 1905.

"I look for excellent results from the deliberations of this Congress, for more light upon vexed questions and for the statement of new and useful points of view. But above all, I hope from our meeting here there will come a complete awakening to the vastness of our common interest in the forest, a wider understanding of the great problem before us, and a still more active and more earnest spirit of co-operation. Unless, you, who represent the business interests of the country take hold and help, forestry can be nothing but an exotic, a purely Government enterprise, outside our industrial life, and insignificant in its influence upon the life of the nation. Without forestry the permanent prosperity of the industries you represent is impossible, because a permanent supply of wood and water can come only from the wise use of the forest, and in no other way, and that supply you must have."





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