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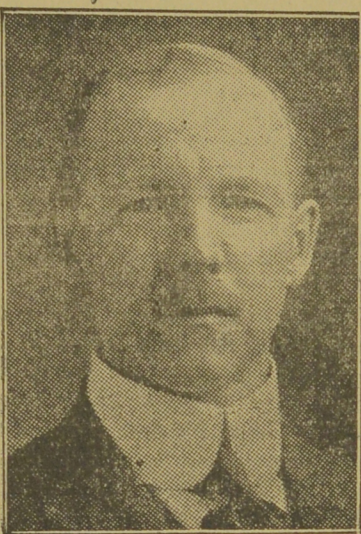
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HON. C. D. RICHARDS TALKS
ON PROTECTION OF FORESTS,
OVER THE RADIO AT MONCTON

The following address by Hon. C. D. Richards, Minister of Lands and Mines, was broadcasted from station CNRA, Moncton last evening:

A Royal Proclamation appointing the present week—April 24th to April 30th—to be observed as Canadian Forest Week has been issued by His Excellency the Governor General. The setting aside of a week annually during which the importance of forest protection from fire and the conservation of our forests is one of the prin-

HON. C. D. RICHARDS.
Minister of Lands and Mines.

ciple developments of the idea which was conceived by a forest officer in the Western United States in 1920 and has become a Dominion wide campaign in which public spirited organizations and citizens join more heartily as the general public becomes more acquainted with the necessity and importance of preserving the timber wealth of the country.

All recognize that our forests are valuable, but none can fully realize how valuable and how important our forests are. Wood has so many uses and enters so much into our daily life and is still being adapted to so many new uses, such as the silk industry, that the value of wood to our welfare is still continuing rather than diminishing.

Our forests supply the raw material for Canada's second largest industry. The forest industry represents a capital investment of \$675,000,000 or over 2-3 of one billion dollars, while salaries and wages paid out by this industry amount to \$100,000,000 annually. New Brunswick's share of this wage distribution in the forest industry is nearly \$6,000,000 Capital now invested in New Brunswick's forest industry amounts to approximately \$45,000,000 about equally divided between the lumber and pulp industry. If this industry were the only industry benefited by the forests we should bend every effort to conserve it, but in addition think of the indirect value of our forests to other industries. For example, on the Canadian Railways 20 per cent of the entire freight haulage comes from the forest. In short, over 50 per cent of Canada's manufacturing industries depend upon wood as a raw material. Our per capita consumption of wood is increasing. During the past quarter century our per capita consumption of paper alone has increased from 57 pounds to 158 pounds per year. Compared with other crops from Canadian soil, the last census shows the forest crop exceed in value all grain crops or all forage crops. On our export sheet with the United States, we find our net exports of forest products in 1925, valued at \$255,428,000, reached the total trade balance of \$272,000,000. Forest products trade with U. S. A. in 1925 showed a very high favorable balance. It is hardly necessary to quote more statistics revealing the value of the forests to industry. Canada's export of paper to the United States is equivalent to a carload every ten minutes.

The Forest Crop.

In this Province with some 65 per cent forest land and such a large area which, on account of the nature of the soil, must always remain forest land, we must look to the forest crop even more than we have in the past as a means of maintaining prosperity. Many a farm has paid off the mort-

gage upon it with logs cut from the woodlot. When farmers in the treeless parts of Canada are idle, the farmer may be harvesting wood from his woodlot or working for the lumber companies. There is an economic balance between forest and farm which must be maintained.

Again the presence of so many species of woods in our forest is a great asset we do not appreciate. Our many kinds of hardwoods, scarcely touched, should be of immense value in the future, as the diminishing supplies of hardwoods in New England transfers development into this Province. Tree growth is good and compares favorably with any other parts of Eastern Canada. But until such times as these species not now being utilized are manufactured, it is even more necessary that the commercial species being utilized are not being wasted by fire. Our forest industries must be continued and this can be done if we can only keep down our forest fire losses. New Brunswick has over 200 saw mills and wood working factories, as well as five pulp mills and one paper mill. These must be supplied with raw material from the living, green growing forest. Burned forests can only mean abandoned industries.

Pulp and Paper.

With the extension of the pulp and paper industry, which has now a present daily capacity of 535 tons of pulp and 65 tons of paper, it is more necessary than ever to prevent any further loss of forests from fire.

We must not forget the value of our forest resources as an important factor in the life of our fish and game.

Fishing is rarely as good in brooks passing through burned land as in forested regions. Fires destroy much of the food or many of our game animals and drive out the fur bearing animals. Our hunting provides recreation to thousands of our own people—our fishing to thousands more. A speaker addressing the Isaak Walton League in convention said, "We love trees and the forest; we escape from the soul destroying rush of urban life in the quietude of the solemn and majestic forests; we listen to the hymns of peace that only a tree can sing and we rise from nature up to nature's God amid the sanctities and solitude

Scenic Value.

Nor must we forget the scenic value of our forested hillsides and valleys not merely as a drawing card for tourists whose surroundings may be less favored with scenery than our own, but the effect trees have in preserving our inspiring natural environment which has contributed so much to Canadian character. The hillsides in the various shades of green of the growing season or the many tinted blending of colors of autumn—such scenery is so commonplace to us that we cannot fully appreciate it until forest fires change it to a desolate black, the familiar forest scenes of younger days. Our forests complete the picture which prompted a noted American writer to state that "such a country is one of God's best gifts to the human race, better than bonanzas of silver or rivers whose sands run gold".

The Fire Menace.

But 2-3 days hanging over the province every summer is the menace of forest fires. In the past these fire losses have been appalling. Not only in forests, but property as well. The same is true for Canada whether in the big timber of British Columbia or the forested lands north of the prairies which mean so much to the fur industry, or the forests of the east which support an immense pulp and paper industry. The average forest fire loss in Canada during the last four years amounted to over \$14,000,000—\$14,214,646 to be exact. Over 3,000,000 acres—nearly half the area of the Crown Lands of this Province, was the average annual area burned over that period. The figures are beyond comprehension. Over 6,000 fires a year occurred. New Brunswick's share of this loss was 125,000 acres valued at \$800,000. Just visualize the losses from forest fires we have had the past few years in this Province. I refer especially to such fires as the Kedgwick Fire of 1919, when settlers' slash fires spread and burned a part of the town, or the St. Quentin Fire of 1920, when again settlers' slash fires spread and rendered several homeless at St. Quentin. Then in 1921, there was the fire which evidently started from the carelessness of fishermen near Loch Alva, spread over the hills into the Saint John Valley and sweeping down in a heavy gale burned so much property in Westfield. Other fires which were not so spectacular because they were removed farther from the settlements, burned more valuable property

—the forests. Westfield, Kedgwick and St. Quentin have built up again, but the forest areas are desolate spots on our landscape, and we will not look for any stumpage from such areas for at least seventy more years. But surpassing these fires were the forest fires of 1923, covering 640 square miles with a loss of \$3,500,000, which surpassed in area the land burned over in the Great Miramichi Fire of 1825. It is estimated enough Crown Land was burned in one district to produce in perpetuity an annual revenue to the Province of \$100,000 which in eighty years would aggregate \$8,000,000. It is true that 1923 was drier than usual, but we must prepare for such years and prevent fires from starting. We must not have another conflagration in New Brunswick such as happened in 1923.

We must solve this forest fire problem of prosperity cannot return to this Province. Prevention of the causes of fires must be the solution. Are our fire laws not drastic enough? It would seem that our fire law contains legislation dealing with practically every known cause of fires. Possibly the laws are not as rigidly enforced as the seriousness of the situation requires. In other words, the public may not be demanding a strict enough observance of the laws.

Preventive Measures.

In the dry periods every preventive measure must be observed for it is then that the fires once started soon spread beyond control. One cannot be too careful. We should be much more concerned about forest fires than in normal seasons such as 1926, when our damage was the lowest on record. In this Canadian Forest Week Campaign, prevention has been the keynote of our messages sent out to the schools and the clergy as well as the theatre and radio audiences, the various clubs and associations reached by speakers. We want the cooperation and whole hearted support of every citizen of New Brunswick this season. Nothing else in the forestry problem approaches in importance that of educating the public to be careful of fire. In serious seasons we have had as many as 400 fires in this Province. In normal seasons, 100. We must greatly reduce this number and maintain efficient methods of quickly discovering and extinguishing those which do start.

Unless warm spring rains come within the next few days we will experience a very hazardous period in May before the vegetation starts. This is one of the periods when much of the damage has been done by forest fires in the past.

(Continued on page four.)

New Brunswick's FORESTS Must Be
Protected From Fires Again This Year

The Government of New Brunswick appeals to the people of the Province to exercise care and caution during the coming danger season in order that forest fires may be prevented.

New Brunswick's Forest Wealth becomes more of a potential factor than ever before in promoting general prosperity with the Province's new industrial era.

Development of Grand Falls is proceeding as well as the establishment of at least two more newsprint mills in the Province.

Were it not for our Forest Resources this great industrial development which New Brunswick is entering upon, would be impossible—the establishment of these great industrial enterprises would not be feasible.

CANADIAN FOREST WEEK, APRIL 24TH TO 30TH.

Canadian Forest Week therefore has a more direct appeal to the people of New Brunswick this year than ever before.

Fishermen, Motorists, Sportsmen, Woodsmen, and Everybody Travelling in the Woods during the coming season can do much to prevent the Scourge of Forest Fires by being Careful. New Brunswick Cannot Afford to Lose Her Forests by Fire.

HELP PREVENT FOREST FIRES

Do your Part as a Good Citizen towards Saving the Forests—New Brunswick's Greatest Asset.

CHARLES D. RICHARDS,
Minister of Lands and Mines.