

HON. MR. RICHARDS MAKES AN APPEAL FOR CONSERVATION OF THE FORESTS OF THE PROVINCE

Following is the full text of the radio address broadcast on Thursday evening by Hon. C. D. Richards, Minister of Lands and Mines:

New Brunswick has been especially fortunate in its Forest Fire losses during the past several years since the disastrous season of 1923 when the fire losses on this province reached enormous proportions. But, never during this period has there been a year when the forest fire hazard has been so great as it has been this season. This condition resulted from the lack of rainfall. A number of fires resulted, perhaps a somewhat larger number than during the same period in other years, but considering the hazard, I feel that the fires have not been unreasonably large in number and that the situation generally has been coped with in a satisfactory manner. The losses have been small, considering the danger to which our forests have been exposed, and the experience of our neighbors on all sides of us.

Of Great Value

The importance of the forest industries to New Brunswick's prosperity will be fully appreciated when it is understood that sixty-five per cent. of our province is forested and that the total value of our forest products last year exceeded \$30,000,000 of which \$9,000,000 was produced by our pulp and paper mills. Two hundred and thirty saw mills, three pulp mills, two pulp and paper mills. Two thirty-one sash and door factories, five box mills, twelve barrel plants and many smaller industries utilizing wood supplies contributed towards this gross production value of \$30,000,000. The new pulp and paper mills that have recently been opened together with the enlargement of the existing plants, when fully operative, will add \$2,000,000 to the wages paid in the cutting of pulp wood and in the paper mills and approximately \$7,000,000 to the value of the forest production of the Province, making the total value of our forest products in the vicinity of \$37,000,000. From these woods operations the Province of New Brunswick in the form of territorial revenue collected by the Department of Lands and Mines in excess of \$1,200,000 annually, over \$800,000 of which is stumpage and this amount is supplemented by rentals and other charges. Since the Department was organized in 1861, sixty nine years ago, the total territorial revenue produced has reached a figure considerably in excess of \$25,000,000 of which over one-half, or approximately \$12,500,000 has been paid into the Department in the last ten years. These figures indicate quite clearly that our forest areas contribute materially to the income of the Province as well as being one of the most important contributing factors toward the general prosperity of our people.

A Capital Investment

The capital investment in New Brunswick's forest industries of all kinds has now reached over \$60,000,000 and the necessity of proper forest management and protection of our great assets cannot be too greatly emphasized. The fire hazard is great and seems to increase from year to year. During the past two years, however, a very substantial expansion has been made in the various forest protection services in the Province. This applies to the Department of Lands and Mines Forest Service as well as to private organizations. Many new lookout towers have been erected, telephone lines constructed, patrols better organized and increased quantities of fire fighting equipment cached at strategic points. This organization, together with one other factor—perhaps the most important of all—the co-operation and support of the whole people of the Province—made the fire loss last year, despite the extremely hazardous season, one of the lowest on record. Nature has been bountiful to us. We have in New Brunswick a large variety of economic trees both hardwood and softwood and the natural reproduction is very great, greater than in many other portions of Canada. It is our duty as well as our necessity to ensure the protection of the heritage which nature has given us.

Must Be Reserved

But not alone in respect to the direct forest industries it is essential that our forests be preserved. Alike also must they be preserved because of their relation to our fish and game resources. These constitute an unfailing source of pleasure and recreation both for the residents of our Province and for the growing number of visitors we are profitably entertaining in New Brunswick each year, and, as well, an important source of revenue both for the Province and the citizens generally.

Nor must we forget the scenic value of forested hillsides and valleys, not merely as an attraction for the ever increasing number of tourists whose surroundings may be less favorable than our own, but for the value that they have in preserving our own natural environment which has contributed so much to Canadian character. The hillsides in the various shades of green of the summer season, or the many tinted blending of colors of autumn such scenery is so commonplace to us that we perhaps do not fully appreciate its beauty or its value until a forest fire has changed to a dead and sombre desolation the familiar scenes of our younger days.

The Forest Service

We have in New Brunswick what is regarded as an efficient forest service, charged with the duty of protecting our forest assets from the fearful menace of the fire hazard. The whole province is divided into five districts, each under an inspector, who reports direct to the chief of the service whose headquarters are at the Department of Lands and Mines in Fredericton. Each of these five inspectorial districts is divided into smaller districts in charge of permanently employed forest ranger. We have twenty-six of these districts. In addition we have sixty forest patrols, each of whom is equipped with a time clock and whose duty it is to patrol certain defined forest area. Others employed in various capacities in the forest service bring the total of the permanent personnel up to about one hundred and fifty. We now have twenty-five lookout towers in operation, this number including those operated in conjunction with several of the timber organizations; each of the fire towers is equipped with telephone connection and we have at the present time two or more lookout towers under construction.

But despite all the forest service may do, despite all the energy and efficiency of the members of the service, their work will be ineffective, will be almost useless without the co-operation and support of every citizen of the province. Remember that a camp fire left burning, a lighted cigarette carelessly thrown by the road side, may destroy hundreds of acres of forest and cause loss of hundreds of thousands of dollars. Our records show that ninety per cent. of our fires in this province are caused by human carelessness, the lighted match or cigarette thrown carelessly away, the camp fire that was burning and was not thoroughly extinguished. This condition should not exist. It need not exist if those who go into the forest will realize their own interest and their own responsibility.

A Word of Caution

To the fisherman, to the camper, to the hunter, to the tourist, to all who go into the forest I want to renew what I have said on previous occasions with all the emphasis I can: Put Out Your Fires; Don't Guess Be Sure. Don't Toss a Match or a Cigar or a Cigarette Butt Away Carelessly.

In conclusion may I say that I greatly appreciate the support and co-operation that has been given us by the churches, the schools, the service clubs and by various other organizations as well as by many private citizens who have assisted up in promoting the cause of forest fire prevention in the province of New Brunswick.

If you "tent out" for the summer you don't have to bed and board visitors as you do when you rent a cottage.

THE JINGLE OF COINS BROKE THE ROUTINE

(New York Sun)

This is not intended to be a funny story, yet it has its humorous angle. The scene was in a subway car, in the middle of a south-bound Broadway express train. It was just after the rush hour, so everybody was as comfortable as it is possible to be in the subway.

The usual routine was broken by the jingle of coins in a tin cup held by a blind man coming down the aisle, led by a companion. The man seated in the center suddenly had his attention arrested from his newspaper when the tin cup was thrust under his nose. He responded by dropping a coin in the cup. Then he resumed reading.

The blind man passed along the aisle and reached the end door between cars. Before he could be led across another pair of figures came through from the opposite direction. One of them was a blind man. He too, was led by a companion. This pair came up the aisle, going in the opposite direction to the first pair.

Finally this pair reached the man engrossed in his paper and the tin cup was jingled under his nose. He looked up in alarm—one could not blame him. Then, when he got his breath, he exclaimed: "My Lord, it seems that every time I look up there's a blind man in front of me. Let me rub my eyes. Is this the same blind man that I just gave money to or is it another one?"

But in spite of his surprise and mystification he nevertheless dug down in his pocket, fished up a coin and dropped it into the extended hat of the passing beggar. Those who saw the proceedings could not help but smile, however.

THE LEADERS SHERMAN RIOT ARE INDICTED

Sherman, Tex., May 21—The Grayson County grand jury named 32 persons yesterday as ringleaders in recent rioting which resulted in the death of George Hughes, 41-year-old Negro.

The jury returned 96 indictments to District Judge R. M. Carter, naming the 32 persons. Several of them have been held in jail since the rioting.

The indictments charged burglary by explosion, arson and rioting with intent to murder, growing out of the destruction done by the mob that burned the Negro to death in the Grayson County courthouse.

Burglary indictments have resulted from dynamiting and robbery of stores in the Negro district, which occurred at the height of the rioting that followed the lynching.

QUEEN MARIE WRITES OF HER LIFE

Bucharest, May 23—An interesting autobiography, that of Queen Marie of Rumania, is expected to be completed this summer, according to reports here. In it she will tell of her youth at the courts of Europe and the story of Rumania's appt in the World war.

"As a child," said Queen Marie, in speaking for her autobiography, I knew all the chief personages of the day. I shall also describe the later period, taking my story through the great war and up to the present time. It is a long task."

The queen's life is now devoted to the care of her children, to charity, and to literary and artistic activities.

A BIG PAY ROLL

Berlin, May 23—One out of every five Germans receives a salary or financial aid from the government. Minister of Labor Adam Stegerwald told the Reichstag Budget Committee. In all, he said, 12,000,000 persons are receiving money from the national treasury in one way or another.

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