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Beginning November 1st, we will open to make sittings Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday nights for convenience of those who wish photos for Xmas and cannot sit during the day.

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OUTLINES A VIGOROUS POLICY FOR PROTECTION OF FORESTS

Lieut. Governor Tweedie's Splendid Address Before Canadian Club Last Evening--Urges Preservation of Forest Assets for Future Generations---Great Need of Chair of Forestry at the U. N. B.

Since a Canadian Club was established in St. John a number of distinguished visitors have delivered addresses. Last evening the first address by a citizen of the province was appropriately given by Hon. L. J. Tweedie, the lieutenant-governor, who in an able and instructive speech spoke on Our Forest Lands and Their Preservation.

After a repast, served in a most satisfactory manner by the King's Daughters, the president called on the secretary, G. A. Henderson, who read letters of regret from Hon. William Pugsley and Hon. H. A. McKeown, who were absent through business engagements. J. N. Harvey, the club's treasurer, then placed before the meeting a proposal to purchase the necessary utensils and cutlery for the club luncheons. On motion of George Robertson, M. P. P., the matter was left in the hands of the executive, with power to act. Mr. Harvey also gave some interesting particulars of the club's good financial position, showing that out of a revenue of $430 during the past nine months, there was still $215.40 on hand.

W. E. Earle, the president, then introduced the guest of honor, referring in a few well chosen remarks to the importance of the subject and urging upon the members the advantage of the care and development of their great heritage and avoiding foreign promoted schemes from which there was rarely any return.

The governor referred to the forestry conventions that had been held in recent years and to the increase in value of forest lands in New Brunswick. He thought attention should be directed to preserving and protecting them in the future. He spoke of the Public Domain Act, which he had introduced in the legislature in 190 when premier, and said if its provisions were carried out the province would not be behind any other in the Dominion in an effective forest policy. Politics should not enter into the question at all. Continuing his honor said:

In the past, no matter what measures were adopted to protect the forests, the cry was raised "you are injuring the poor man, the forests belong to the province and should be free to every one that chooses to operate or cut the lumber." It is not uncommon to hear even now that the lumbermen of the country are monopolists, that the young men of the country are being driven out by reason of the fact that lumbermen hold all the lands, and land for settlement cannot be obtained—that the smaller operator cannot compete with his richer neighbor. If heed is given to these cries, nothing will be effected and the result can only prove disastrous to the interests of the province in the years to come.

The public domain of the province belongs to its people, not to any one class, and until public opinion is aroused to the importance of and necessity for its immediate protection the destruction and waste which has been carried on in the past will still continue. It is not only those who are engaged in the lumber industry that are interested; every one in the province has a vital interest in these lands. The merchant, the agriculturist, the professional man, the mechanic, the laborer and all others, and not only the present generation but future generations.

I do not know of any subject that is more worthy of the serious consideration and attention of your club, and I feel honored to have the privilege of addressing you this evening and throwing out some suggestions as to the best methods of fostering, preserving and protecting this source of our provincial wealth.

Coming now to the public domain act, it is provided that the lieutenant governor in council is authorized to appoint a subcommittee to the executive council to act with the surveyor general in respect to and for the purpose of carrying out the matters hereinafter provided for, and such committee with the surveyor general are authorized to employ the necessary number of competent men charged with the following duties:

(1) To make a complete survey of the crown lands of the province; to divide the same into districts and wherever necessary to run base lines and such other lines as may be necessary to distinguish such districts.

Now, unfortunately, as I have said, those charged with the administration of the crown land department years ago had not the support and financial assistance that would enable them to make a thorough survey of the lands of the province. In former years and before 1890, surveys were made in a very incomplete way. Base lines were run years ago but not in any systematic manner. Block lines were not run out at all, and when lands were licensed the adjoining owners ran what is known as a conventional line to suit the requirements for the time being.

The woods are full of such lines and in the past they have proved very disturbing and have caused endless litigation. Since 1890 base lines have been run in some portions of the province and the corner of the blocks marked, but so far as regards the whole public domain there is no one in the crown land office, or out of it, who has any correct or exact knowledge of the lands of the province.

The first thing an ordinary individual would do, if he were owner of a block of forest land, would be to have it surveyed, cruised, and an estimate of the quantity and quality of the lumber thereon made; and it is essential a thorough survey and classification of all our crown lands should be made as soon as possible.

After dealing with this phase of the question at some length, he said:

Now it is apparent that the crown should be in possession of this knowledge, so that it might intelligently deal with the pulp wood question, which is of great importance, in view of the establishment in recent years, of sulphite fibre mills.

Many intelligent and capable lumbermen hold to the idea that pulp mills are a great meance to the forest wealth of our country and that with their greater development it is only a question of a few years when our lumber lands will be depleted. With this view I do not agree, because if a proper policy be carried out in regard to the cutting of lumber it is clear to me that pulp mills might be well supplied without doing any appreciable damage to our forest lands. One thing, however, is important, and of vast importance, and that is that on no account whatever and under no pretext should the operator be allowed to cut lumber below that allowed by the present regulations, except in cases where the land is of stubby growth before mentioned, and which would not in any event produce merchantable lumber of the regulation size.

With this latter view I know that a great many will disagree because every proposition to curtail or limit in any way the privileges the operator formerly enjoyed necessarily is unpopular. I am fully impressed, however, with the necessity that exists today for a more vigorous policy in this regard and feel that if such policy is not pursued in the near future the province will eventually suffer.

What condition would this province be in if it were not for its forest wealth? If the operator were allowed to cut the lands indiscriminately—why—in a very few years there would be nothing left but a waste howling wilderness of no value whatever. The country would be completely demoralized and ruined, not only from a lumbering standpoint but also from an industrial standpoint.

And here I may remark that of late a great deal has been written and said throughout Canada in regard to the governments allowing our unmanufactured lumber to be shipped to the United States—in the shape of rossed wood to supply its pulp and paper mills. I agree at once that if it could be made clear that all the wood that is at present exported from this province could be profitably manufactured into paper within the province, then it would be advisable to prevent its shipment to the United States; but that is not clear, and I can see a great many difficulties in the way.

The shipping of raw material out of the country could only be prevented by the federal government.

His honor then dealt with forest fires, and said since the policy of leasing the land for twenty-five years had been adopted more care was exercised and fires had not been so destructive. He enumerated causes of forest fires, and said more stringent regulations should be made and greater precautions taken and both government and licensees should contribute to the cost. "There should be a regular fire service connected with the crown land. A competent man should have charge as chief fire ranger, and a sufficient number of men should be employed in each district whose duty it would be to report to the chief ranger at stated periods. These wardens should patrol their district daily during the dangerous seasons, which are generally the month of May, part of June, October and part of November, and while danger and damage cannot absolutely be prevented, still with a proper system, energetically and practically worked out, the chances of loss may be greatly reduced.

"My view for a long while has been that every person traveling in the woods should have a license, which should be issued without fee or a nominal one. This should have the effect of making parties more careful as to their conduct, but this view has not met with general approval. Without constant vigilance and precaution our forests are liable during any dry season to be practically destroyed by fire, and this would mean the crippling of many of our great industries."

His honor said he regarded with apprehension the construction of the G. T. P. which is to run through a large portion of New Brunswick forest land; and also of the International railway from Campbellton to the St. John river, the whole 110 miles being mainly through the most valuable crown timber lands. If, as had been suggested, these roads might be run by electricity, the danger would be eliminated, but if not the greatest care must be taken to provide against destruction of the lands.

He referred to applications for land for settlement purposes, which were not bona fide, and also to the claim of licensees of timber lands for twenty-five year nenewals of their holdings. Proper precautions should be taken to guard against these land-pirate schemes.

We have large tracts of agricultural lands as good as any in the Dominion of Canada for mixed farming, and I have yet to learn that any farmer, young or old, who has paid strict attention to his farm and worked it intelligently has failed to make a success of it.

It would be highly beneficial for this province if greater attention were paid to agriculture. Our farmers today do not raise one half the amount of produce that is required. Our lumbermen are obliged annually to purchase hay, oats, pork, beans and other necessaries from the other provinces. This should not be so. If we are to succeed, our people must get out of the old ruts, learn the possibilities of their own country, abandon the old primitive methods and follow the new ones. The man who lacks faith in the country and in business will never accomplish great things. It is better to depend upon one's self than upon governments.

From time to time we hear of the necessity of reafforestation, but to my mind the necessity does not exist at the present time for such a policy. We have thousands of acres of land within the province where the growth is too thick and where it would be of great advantage to pursue a thinning out process, and if the lands of the province are ever classified as I have suggested, I have no doubt that such a course will be adopted.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie quoted Sir Wilfrid Laurier at the 1906 forestry convention in Ottawa as speaking in favor of a large forest preserve and keeping the water sheds as forests and the property of the state; also advocating that the dominion or provincial governments buy back any such lands as may have become transferred to private ownership and make them part of the national domain. Governor Tweedie said as to this: I certainly agree with the premier when he states the necessity that exists that the forest, the head waters of our streams and water sheds should be reserved as it is essential to the well-being of the nation. but I do not agree that the onus of the establishment of these reserves and in some cases repurchasing and the maintenance of these reserves should be upon the respective provinces. The federal government, in my opinion, should acquire these reserves and maintain them because their preservation not only benefits the particular province where they are situate, but the whole dominion, and while it may be true that the state of New York has taken upon itself the burthen of maintaining these reserves, still I would draw attention to the fact that in other states the federal government has taken steps to establish forest preserves and a bill has recently passed the senate and is now pending in congress to create the White Mountain Forest Reserve in the State of New Hampshire comprising about 800,000 or 1,000,000 acres of land.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie emphasized the suggestion that no licensee be allowed to cut lumber under the regulation size "because in the proper enforcement of that regulation I see the mainstay of forest protection. There is no reason why the holder of licensed land, who is a pulp manufacturer, should be allowed to cut undersized lumber and especially if there be another regulation which is suggested by the act, namely—the operator must take out of the forest the tops of the trees. This does not mean that they will be required to take out the branches, but simply the wood—say to the diameter of four inches at the top end. If all our operators are required to do this, the supply of pulp wood will be very large. If the pulp manufacturer does not desire to make the large log into pulp he can dispose of these to the saw mill owner.

"The act also provides and authorizes the lieutenant governor in council to confer with the authorities of the State of Maine and the province of Quebec with a view to taking the necessary steps to facilitate the driving on the River St. John. No arrangement can be made until the proposition is submitted to and approved by the legislative assembly of the province. From time to time difficulties have arisen in regard to stream driving in the St. John River. It is advisable that some such steps should be taken so that the interest of all parties might be defined and disputes and troubles avoided in the future.

"The act also authorizes the lieutenant governor in council to make regulations in respect to boom companies and provides in such regulations that all operators upon any such streams shall have the privilege of having an interest in such boom companies and may order and direct that only such toll shall be charged as will give reasonable compensation for the driving, rafting and boomage of logs after charging reasonable expenses and providing for dividends not to exceed ten per cent on the capital invested in the works of the company. These provisions seem to be wise and provide and easy means of settling any disputes that may arise in the future between operators and log driving and booming companies already incorporated.

"In order to intelligently carry out any such policy as is contemplated by this act able, efficient and well qualified men are required, men who will perform their duty without fear or favor—men who are not inclined to follow the lines of least resistance, but potential men—who will to the utmost of their ability protect the country, and at the same time be just to the operator. A forestry staff should be organized with a principal or chief and upon the selection of the principal or chief would depend, in a great measure, the successful protection and preservation of our forests.

"In order to successfully carry out the policy those engaged in the work should be interested in forest protection and preservation and in this connection I would strongly impress upon the country the necessity of having a school of forestry or a chair of forestry immediately established in our university where our young men could be trained and educated and thereby by the love of these great timber lands of ours, would bend their energies towards perpetuating them.

"Yale and Harvard universities have large tracts of land set apart in connection with their chair of forestry and it would not be a difficult matter for the province of New Brunswick to follow along the same lines. What we require in the province is practical young men—not theorists—but men who know the whole business—men who would be able to advise the operator as to the most economical way of cutting his lumber, teaching him to abandon the old style leaving a stump four or five feet in the woods—the best part of the tree—and in other ways avoiding extravagance and waste.

"Now Mr. President and Gentlemen—while time would not allow my going fully into the whole question of forestry, still I think I have touched upon the points that are at the present time most important—for the consideration of the people of the province. If the warning I have uttered is heeded by the people there is no doubt but the forest lands of the province will not only be a source of wealth for the present generation but will be perpetuated for years to come.

"One other word of warning I would utter, and that is against over-production. When the capabilities of our lands are thoroughly ascertained by actual survey and inspection, as I have before mentioned, it will be an easy matter for any competent man to decide what lumber might be cut annually over these lands without injury to their growth; and the yearly crop of lumber cut should not, under any circumstances, exceed the annual capability of the lands."

His honor was loudly applauded as he closed.

Hon. R. J. Ritchie moved a cordial vote of thanks for the able and instructive address and Ald. Baxter, in seconding the motion, congratulated the province on having an official head who could deliver a lecture of such vital importance to its citizens.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie briefly responded and proposed a vote of thanks to the King's Daughters which was carried with much enthusiasm. The proceedings closed with the National Anthem.

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Lieutenant-Governor and Mrs. Tweedie will this afternoon from 4 until 6.30 o'clock be the hosts at a reception in the Royal hotel parlors. It is expected that many will take the opportunity to pay their respects at this the first reception in St. John since Governor Tweedie's appointment. The district officer commanding requests all officers attending the reception to wear full-dress uniform.

See Page 3

WILCOX BROS.,
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