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THE EMPIRE FORESTRY ASSOCIATION CHALLENGES WIDER CANADIAN RECOGNITION

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"Prospice Perspice"—LOOK AHEAD AND THINK!

HERE you have the virile and eminently suitable motto of the Empire Forestry Association, for surely no other human activity calls for such forward-looking, long-time, soundly-considered planning, as does forestry. Despite great changes effected by the introduction of substitutes, wood, by virtue of its illimitable uses, remains almost the greatest of natural assets—a source from which a thousand and one industrial interests draw their raw material; an indispensable foundation of Empire prosperity.

Because timber is thus essential and yet the crop of a hundred years; because of the serious drain on the choicest softwood species; because of the need for devoting every forest acre to its one best use and to this end the fostering of scientific forest management; the first Empire Forestry Conference was convened in London in 1920. From a resolution of this Conference arose the Empire Forestry Association, incorporated by Royal Charter in 1921, under the direct patronage of His Majesty the King.

Under the distinguished Presidency of the Prince of Wales, the first few years were spent in the pioneer work of establishing connection with Empire forestry organizations and agencies. The Association thus gathered within its membership important representatives of forestry interests from every part of the Empire and had become recognized as a much-needed clearing house for information on Empire timbers and forestry affairs in general. From its inception, however, the development, functioning and power of the Association had been hampered and restricted by two things: too small a membership and lack of adequate financial support.

About 1928 a strong drive was made for new members and but for the great world-wide trade depression from 1929 to 1934, the membership would no doubt to-day number several thousand, instead of about 1400. Of special interest and concern, however, is the fact that only some 3 per cent. of these members are in Canada where the bulk of the forests lie, and where in

particular 90 per cent. of the Empire's precious softwood supply is centred. At first glance it may seem difficult to account for this situation, but after all, in past years the great bulk of Canada's trade in forest products, as also the technical affiliation of her foresters, has been with the United States rather than overseas. Since 1930, at least two attempts have been made to increase Canadian membership in the Empire Forestry Association, one circular being mailed to 300 forest engineers and another mailed to 150 wood-using firms. All told, only a dozen new members resulted.

Now, however, that the depression is lifting; now that the fast-growing timber trade with Britain and other Empire countries is the striking feature of our trade statistics; now that we have reached a time when our forest engineers are practically all the product of Canadian schools, it is surely opportune to consider anew the value and appeal of the Empire Forestry Association. To this end, let us glance first at the general objects it has in view and then as to what it may hold of sufficient interest to attract Canadian foresters.

The central object of the Association is to promote, foster and develop public interest in forestry throughout the British Empire. Thus it seeks:

- (1) To secure general recognition of the dependence of timber supply upon forest management.
- (2) To collect and circulate information relating to forestry and the commercial utilization of forest products.
- (3) To form a centre and means of communication between all Empire units concerned in forestry activities.
- (4) To make a useful study of existing laws, rules, regulations and methods appertaining to forestry throughout the Empire, and to make cogent representations in that regard to Forest Authorities.
- (5) To prepare, produce, publish and circulate books, periodicals, press articles, etc., relating to forestry and to deliver lectures or addresses thereon.

To translate these aims into actualities the Association pursues various activities. The main and vital link of connection with its overseas members in the "Empire Forestry Journal," now issued semi-annually, but to be made a quarterly the moment finances will permit. It brings into useful common contact the widely-scattered Empire foresters and places before them a wealth of information in its technical and descriptive articles, as well as its interesting reviews and news notes. To stir the interest of the reader and win a wider membership among Canadian foresters for the Empire Forestry Association, I cite later a few of the some forty articles calculated to be of special

interest and value to them, which have appeared in the "Journal" during the past four years.

Another publication of the Association of great service to all interested, is the informative "Empire Forestry Handbook" which appears annually, dealing with many phases of forest administration, education and utilization within the Empire. Much of its concise information is nowhere else obtainable.

Among the special "Journal" articles already referred to are, inter-alia, the following, grouped for convenience. Many are of as great or greater interest and value to Canadians as to foresters in other parts of the Empire:

ECOLOGY AND PEDOLOGY:

The Fauna of Forest Soils,
The Function of Mycorrhiza in relation to Tree Growth,
Ecology, the Foundation of Forestry,
Soils, their Origin, Constitution and Classification.

FOREST RESOURCES:

The Natural Resources of New Brunswick (review),
The Afforestable Lands of Great Britain,
A Visit to Queen Charlotte Islands,
Yellow Cedar,
Distribution of Forest Areas in the U.S.A.

FOREST POLICY:

Forestry in the Empire
The Development of Public Opinion in relation to Forest Reservation in Canada.

FOREST RESEARCH:

The Measurement of Daylight in Relation to Plant Growth,
Forest Research in Central Europe,
Studies on Tree Roots,
Resistance of Timbers to Damage by Marine Borers,
The Durability of Western Red Cedar.

UTILIZATION:

Air Survey and Forestry,
Lumbering in British Columbia,
Timbers Suitable for Matchmaking,
Logging and Milling Costs in B.C.,
A New Type of Saw Mill in B.C.,

FOREST ECONOMICS:

The Problem of Creating and Developing Markets for Empire Hardwoods
in Britain,
The Timber Trade and the Ottawa Conference,
Foresters and the Economic Crisis,
Forestry and National Economy.

PLANTING AND NURSERY:

Tree Planting on the Canadian Prairies,
The Importance of the Origin of Forest Seeds.

BOTANY:

Rules of Botanical Nomenclature.

With such a small fraction of the Empire Forestry Association membership located in Canada, the wonder is that so many articles are appearing in the Empire Forestry Journal of real interest and import to Canadians. This, of course, is because Canada ranks so easily first among Empire units, in the matter of forest resources. This premier position in forest wealth and potentially in forestry matters, will be ever more strongly reflected in the pages of the Journal as more and more Canadian Forest Engineers waken up to the worthwhileness and advantages of a Professional Membership in the Empire Forestry Association.

In Canada the cult of forestry used to be largely devoted to the contemplation of European practice, while now the tendency is to be too disregarding of overseas procedure. After all, the principles of any true science are world-wide in their scope and Canadian foresters have much to learn in forest-cultural practices, from studies made and results achieved elsewhere in the world.