

# Reforestation Policy Of Far-Seeing Nature Outlined by Minister

**Hon. William Finlayson,  
Century After Province's  
First Authorized Timber  
Sale, Sketches Proposed  
Legislation Which, He  
Claims, Will Make Pub-  
licly Owned Forests and  
Pulp Enterprises "as  
Great as Hydro"**

**WELL RECEIVED  
IN LEGISLATURE**

Hon. William Finlayson, Minister of Lands and Forests, took yesterday—the 100th anniversary of the date of Ontario's first authorized timber sale—as an appropriate time to stress to the Legislature the urgency of the reforestation policy the Government now proposes to effect and to sketch from his own vision a glowing picture of the publicly owned timber and pulp enterprises—"as great as Hydro"—that is to follow within the next generation the operation of this rehabilitation program.

"This House and the Province at large," said Mr. Finlayson, speaking to the second reading of his Forestry Bill, "must realize we have to face a reforestation policy, and that we must make necessary appropriations from year to year to rehabilitate the timber industry of Ontario."

**Plan Is Outlined.**

This Forestry Bill, which is the policy of the Ministry of Lands and Forests, seeks to divide the province into three sections for the purpose of reforestation. In Southern Ontario a determined effort is to be made to interest farmers in planting their waste land. All manner of departmental aid and instruction will be forthcoming, and as a special inducement to subscribe to the scheme the Government assures the farmer who agrees to bear the expense of placing 10 per cent. of his acreage under reforestation that he will be exempted of taxation on the acreage involved. It is also proposed to depopulate the Laurentian shield (Central Ontario), which is particularly adapted to reforestation, and to transfer the settlers, all expenses paid, to the clay belt farther north, and there provide them with land holdings equal to those abandoned. Up where extensive "stands" of valuable timber are still to be had, the Government's policy will be one of "giving nature a chance," with the ever-watchful eye of the forest air patrols ready at all times to aid in the furtherance of that policy.

**Proposal Well Received.**

Mr. Finlayson spoke in the House yesterday for the first time since he was taken into the Ferguson Cabinet, and his speech was enthusiastically acclaimed by Government and Opposition supporters alike, Liberal Leader W. E. N. Sinclair and J. G. Lethbridge, for the Progressive group, paying him marked compliments and expressing the desire of the two groups to assist the Government in every possible way to preserve the timber welfare of the Province. Mr. Finlayson gave an exhaustive account of the work of his department, and vigorously entreated the country's support of the reforestation policy the Government is launching. It was his charge that a member of the House would be sadly amiss in his duty if he failed this year to acquaint his constituents with the aim of the Government, and to bring pressure to bear on county Councils in order that the work of reforestation, especially in Southern Ontario, where the seriousness of the timber situation is not so apparent as elsewhere, might get early headway.

**Must Retain Timber Wealth.**

"Our timber wealth must remain," said Mr. Finlayson, in deploring the fact that in the infant stages of the industry there had been no efforts at conservation. "Timber must be treated as a crop and not as a mine."

Governments had erred in the past, he said. Lumbermen themselves had erred. Money in good timber that had gone up in smoke in Ontario sawmills, he contended, would have gone a long way toward paying off the Province's debt. Old methods of lumbering, he added, had been designed apparently for no other reason than to invite fire and disaster.

"One of the fixed policies of this Government," said he, in referring to the rapid growth of the pulp and paper industry in Ontario, "is to stop the export of pulp as soon as possible." The first pulp woods sale had been made in 1891, he said. Today Ontario was producing 2,600 tons of pulp daily, and in the next three or four years would raise that figure to a daily output of 4,500. He was glad to note that poplar, which long held second place in this industry by virtue of the fact that spruce is extensively used for newspaper, was now coming into its own, in the field of finer paper.

In this connection Mr. Finlayson flashed a warning. The Government, he said, was hesitating now to make further commitments as to the expansion of the pulp paper industry in Ontario. The possibility of the market being unable to absorb production had, he inferred, influenced this hesitation.

**Plenty of Pine Remains.**

Leading up to a valuation of Ontario's forest industries, Mr. Finlayson ridiculed the belief that white and red pine were things of the past. Ontario still possessed, he contended, the finest stands of white pine in the world, and even at the present terrific rate of consumption, they would last for fifty years, quite unaugmented by the reforestation work of the present day.

Ontario's timber production for the last five years, he valued at approximately \$120,000,000. In view of the fact that the Government spends nearly a million dollars yearly in its fire protection for the industry Mr. Finlayson thought that the lumbermen—particularly those who bought their tracts under the old system that gave them Crown as well as cutting rights to the limits—should pay a more adequate fire tax than they do at the present time. Out of this fire protection tax the Government last year drew a revenue of \$306,119.51.

Ontario, stated Mr. Finlayson, employs 1,001 men for fire protection, 52 of which remain on duty all winter. The value of their equipment is \$750,000. At the Sault, he stated, is what he considers the finest equipped aerodrome on the North American continent. In eulogizing the work of the forest patrol, in its capacity of not only spotting but fighting fires, Mr. Finlayson paid a tribute to the foresight of his predecessor in office, Hon. James Lyons, in bringing the service under the Government, and not hiring planes as is the administrative policy in Quebec and in several States of the Union.

In conclusion, Mr. Finlayson reiterated his faith in the reforestation policy. No member in the House, he said, would live to see the results that operation of the policy would bring, but he prophesied a day when there would be no more timber sales—when there would be strings of State sawmills across the Province—a public-owned enterprise, as great in its way as Hydro.

## GOVERNMENT QUERIED AND GIVES ANSWERS ON VARIETY OF TOPICS

**Martin Mentions Plans to  
Extend Ontario's Brit-  
ish Market**

## HENRY ON GAS TAX ACT

A detailed statement of the results and administration of the Corn-Borer Acts of 1925 and 1926 was made in the House yesterday, when the Government dealt with questions from the Opposition. C. G. Fletcher (Liberal, South Essex) wanted information on this subject.

The Government stated that several County Councils had passed by-laws appointing inspectors under the acts, and that the respective amounts paid by the Province to these municipalities for inspectors' salaries and expenses were: Kent, \$140.73; Elgin, \$168; Middlesex, \$96; Oxford, \$128; Lambton, \$248.79; Norfolk, \$96.50; Essex, \$305.30; and Prince Edward, \$211.37.

D. J. Taylor (Progressive, North Grey) was informed that Stewart McClenaghan, member of the Liquor Control Commission, was a member of the "Two Macs" clothing firm in Ottawa.

**\$18,366,363 on Deposit.**

E. B. Miller (Liberal, East Elgin) was told that the total amount of money on deposit in the Government Savings Office on Oct. 31, 1926, was \$18,366,363.52.