

EMPIRE FORESTRY CONFERENCE.

Delegates in South Australia.

An Interview with Lord Clinton.

The Importance of Empire Timber Supplies.

Lord Clinton, in an interview last evening on the objects of the Empire Forestry Conference, said valuable results had followed the two conferences previously held. The delegates looked to the public to use greater care in the protection of the forests, which were their own property. The visitors were greatly impressed with what they had already seen in South Australia, and regretted that they could not prolong their stay.

With definitely favorable impressions of what they have already seen of afforestation in South Australia, delegates to the Empire Forestry Congress arrived in Adelaide on Tuesday evening, after having spent a portion of the day inspecting the State forests at Wirrabara. They arrived at Port Augusta from Western Australia by the East-West train in the morning, and were met by the Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. W. L. Summers), the Conservator of Forests (Mr. E. Julius), and the forester in charge of the Bundaleer and Wirrabara forests (Mr. Field). They were motored through the Wirrabara forest to Gladstone, and after an inspection came on to Adelaide in a special rail car and were met at the railway-station by the Minister of Agriculture (Hon. J. Cowan), Captain Verney, A.D.C., on behalf of his Excellency the Governor, the Public Service Commissioner (Brigadier-General S. Price Weir) as president of the Commonwealth Club, and other prominent citizens. Directly after their arrival the visitors were entertained at dinner at the railway refreshment rooms. The delegates present were:—Great Britain, Lord Clinton, Messrs. R. L. Robinson, H. A. Pritchard, F. M. Olliphant, R. S. Troup, and R. D. Furze; Canada, Mr. J. M. Swaine, Messrs. E. H. Finlayson, D. R. Cameron, P. Z. Caverhill, and E. J. Zavitz; India, Sir P. H. Clutterbuck, Messrs. C. G. Trevor, E. O. Schebbeare, H. R. Blanford, S. H. Howard, W. R. Jacobs, W. A. Robertson, R. D. Richmond, and C. C. Wilson; Federated Malay States, Mr. C. E. S. Cubitts; Ceylon, Mr. A. B. Lushington; South Africa, Mr. C. E. Legat; Nigera, Mr. F. Bunny; Cyprus, Mr. H. A. Unwin; Kenya Colony, Mr. H. M. Gardner; British North Borneo, Mr. H. G. Keith; Commonwealth of Australia, Messrs. C. E. Lane-Poole and A. Rule; Victoria, Messrs. A. V. Galbraith and A. A. Hone; Queensland, Messrs. E. H. F. Swain and I. F. Brett; Western Australia, Mr. S. F. Kessell; New Zealand, Mr. J. Haussou; South Australia, Messrs. E. Julius, A. L. Pinches, and W. L. Summers.

On the conclusion of the dinner the delegates, with the exception of Lord Clinton, who is staying at Government House, were motored to the Pier Hotel, Glenelg. This morning they will visit Kuitpo Forest, and in the evening will be entertained at dinner by the Government at Parliament House.

Lord Clinton Interviewed.

Lord Clinton, in an interview with a representative of "The Advertiser," said every part of the Empire was represented by the conference, which was regarded as of the utmost importance. It was the third conference, and the object was to take advantage of the combined knowledge of experts in the vital problems of forestry. With the assistance of the local authorities in the places visited the delegates would be able to pool their knowledge and experience, and deal with local issues as well as wider problems. Supplies of timber had to be provided for the future, and therefore it was the duty of every governing body to realise their responsibility. Australia with her wealth of hard woods would play an important part in the provision of wood for the world. There was, he contended, big work ahead for the British Empire in that regard. Within the Empire there were 2,000,000 square miles of forests, and, as wood was one of the necessities of life they must do something to make patent to all the necessity for taking a live interest in the problem. It was hoped that the conference in Australia would benefit the Commonwealth, as had been the case in other countries, and that as the result the subject of forestry would make a popular appeal. The forests of the Empire made up a vast possession, and they were worthy of the greatest efforts for broader and more careful development. The delegates would discuss with State and municipal representatives and forest authorities the conditions needed to ensure real development of the forest resources of the Commonwealth. Valuable results had accrued from the previous conferences. They dealt with questions of policy, administration, trade and marketing, as well as with the technical side of forestry, and reliance was placed largely upon development and research. During the past conferences the public became interested in forestry problems, and realised its own needs and interests. The people had learned to appreciate the great part timber must play in the life of the world. The delegates looked to the support of public opinion to back up the various Governments in carrying out any policy that might be suggested, and they also looked to the public to use the greatest care in the protection of the forests.

interest and returns could hardly be excelled in any part of the world.

The Wirrabara Forest.

The Wirrabara forest, which was inspected by the delegates on Tuesday, consists of 17,395 acres, and is situated 150 miles north of Adelaide, on the lower Flinders Range, 12 miles from Spencer Gulf. The forest is five miles west of the Adelaide to Wilmington railway line, and is served by several stations on that line, principally the Wirrabara railway-station, to which it is connected by a fairly good road. The elevation is 1,200 ft. to 1,800 ft. above sea level. The rainfall averages 26 inches per annum, falling mostly during the winter months. The water supply is good during nine months of the year, being obtainable from several running creeks traversing the forest, and by sinking to a depth of 30 ft. to 50 ft. The temperature ranges from 25 degrees to 65 degrees Fahrenheit in winter, snow falling on rare occasions, and 45 degrees to 100 degrees in summer. The plantations comprise a total area of 1,824 acres net, including 1,077 acres of softwoods and 747 acres of hardwoods. Success has been secured by the growth of several species of exotic conifers and eucalypts from other States, also English ash and other European deciduous trees. Large supplies of indigenous hardwood (eucalyptus) timber have been obtained from this forest for the copper mines of Burra, Moonta, and Wallaroo, and also sleepers for the construction of northern railway lines, bridges, culverts, telegraph and telegraph posts, girders, piles, and poles, and building timber for house construction. The reserve has played a most important part in the development of the mining industry and the fertile wheat and wool areas of the north. It has also supported a large population in the timber industry created by the exploitation of the indigenous forest and its regeneration, and the establishment of plantations and milling.

Members of the party were greatly impressed with what they saw. The growth of timber they remarked was exceedingly good, but owing to the small area its possibilities and resources were necessarily limited. The Canadian delegates were particularly impressed.

Committee Work.

The delegates have not been idle during their transcontinental journey, but have occupied their time in committee work. The committee on Australian forestry, under the chairmanship of Professor R. S. Troup, Director of the Imperial Forestry Institute at Oxford, includes representatives of the Commonwealth and of each State. Other committees are as follows:—The Forestry Bureau, with Mr. C. E. Legat, Chief Conservator of Forests for South Africa, as chairman; the exotics committee, presided over by Mr. H. R. Blanford, Conservator of Forests, Burmah; and the forest management committee, of which Mr. C. J. Trevor, Conservator of Forests of the United Provinces of India, is chairman. Discussions in committee will continue from time to time during the progress of the Australian tour, and the results will be embodied in resolutions to be presented before the conference in plenary session at Canberra. The delegates were unanimous in their expressions of appreciation of their reception in Western Australia, and of the comfortable accommodation and excellent service afforded them by the Commonwealth railways.

South Australian Programme.

The main business of the conference in Adelaide will be conducted at the Brookman Hall, School of Mines, tomorrow, when discussions on various aspects of afforestation throughout the Empire will take place. The delegates will be entertained at lunch at 1 o'clock by the Commonwealth Club at the Town Hall, and they will leave by the Melbourne express at 4.30 for Wolseley en route for Kalangadoo. They will be accompanied on their visit to the South-East by the Minister of Agriculture (Hon. J. Cowan). On Friday they will inspect the Penola forest areas and the lakes and forest areas at Mount Gambier will be visited. Other forests in the South-East will be visited on Saturday morning, and the delegates will journey through Millicent to Mount Burr, where the forest reserve will be viewed. In the afternoon they will go by special train to Wolseley en route for Victoria.

FORESTRY CONFERENCE.

Message to the King.

Prince Sends Best Wishes.

Features of the opening of the Forestry Conference yesterday were a telegram of loyalty to the King and the receipt from the Prince of Wales of a long message displaying much interest in the proceedings.

Perth, August 22.

Shortly after the British Empire Forestry Conference began this morning Lord Clinton, P.C., the chairman, announced that, following the usual custom, greetings would be sent to his Majesty the King. The delegates endorsed the following messages to be dispatched to his Majesty:—"The third British Empire Forestry Conference, assembled in Perth, Western Australia, desire to offer to your Majesty an assurance of their loyal devotion to your person and your throne. It is their resolve that this conference shall, so far as possible, be as instrumental as the preceding conferences have been in promoting the better management and utilisation of the forests of your Majesty's Empire."

Sir Peter Clutterbuck (India) read the following message sent by the Prince of Wales:—"As President of the Empire Forest Association, I send my good wishes to the delegates taking part in the Empire Forestry Conference, and shall watch with interest the result of their labors. I am glad to think the task of this third conference will be rendered more fruitful by the work of its predecessors in London and in Canada. Facts concerning forestry have now been collected from all parts of the Empire, and for the first time our position in regard to this industry, essential to the welfare of every civilised society, can be studied as a whole. No greater mistake could be made than to suppose that trees grow of themselves. They have to be tended, like other crops, and every year, as the virgin forests vanish, we must become more and more dependent on the efficiency of the forestry services. It has been the object of the Empire Forests Association to gain for the arduous work of this service the support of public opinion, and also, through its journal, to enable the army of British foresters scattered over the face of the globe to benefit by each other's experience, and add to the efficiency of their efforts. Our association now has 734 members, of whom 472 are professional foresters. I hope it will soon have many more, since forest service includes not less than 12,000 senior grade officers, besides many of other ranks. It is satisfactory to know that learned societies all over Europe subscribe to the journal, and that the tentative list of trade names for Empire timbers published by the association, with the help of the Empire Marketing Boards, has been in great demand. I send hearty greetings to the bodies affiliated to our association in Australia, the Australian Forestry League of Forests Commissions of Victoria and New South Wales, and in New Zealand to the Forestry Department of Auckland University and the New Zealand Forestry League, to the men of all ranks in the forest services of the Commonwealth and the Dominion, and especially to those I have had the pleasure of meeting personally. I send my best wishes for the success of the great enterprise in which they are engaged."

Sir Peter explained that he presented the message to the conference because he held the post of chairman of the Empire Forests Association, an unofficial body instituted under Royal charter with his Majesty the King as patron and his Highness the Prince of Wales as president.

Lord Clinton said they had listened to the message of the Prince of Wales with deep interest. It betokened his Highness's own personal interest in the work of the Dominions and of the conference. He moved that a respectful reply be sent expressing appreciation of, and thanks for, his Highness's interest.

The motion was unanimously carried.

Interest in Australia.

The delegates to the conference were informed of the interest in forestry problems taken by the Federal and State Governments, and of their practical efforts to improve existing conditions. The Premier (Mr. Collier) was installed in the chair pending the election by the conference of its chairman for the sittings throughout Australasia. This honor was conferred on Lord Clinton, the leader of the British delegation, with Mr. R. L. Robinson (Great Britain), and Mr. C. E. Lane Poole (Inspector-General of Forests for the Commonwealth) as vice-chairman.

Senator Kingsmill addressed the conference on behalf of the Prime Minister (Mr. Bruce). He said Mr. Bruce had left the form of greeting that he should utter to his own discretion. Mr. Bruce had, however, in no uncertain terms defined the attitude of the Federal Government to forestry problems, and feelings of gratification were felt that this, the third conference, was being held in the Commonwealth. Mr. Bruce wished him to say that the Federal Government recognised, to the greatest possible extent, the value of forestry, both present and prospective, to Australia. He realised, too, that Australia would gain considerably from the presence of so many high authorities in forestry from other parts of the world and he admired the cosmopolitan nature of the assembly. The gathering could not be more representative. The Federal Government had already given an earnest of their desires; first, by the appointment of Mr. Lane Poole as Inspector-General of Forests, and secondly, by the fact that at Canberra there existed for the furtherance of forestry interests throughout Australia a forestry school, which so far had met with great success, with support from the States, which provided students. Further evidence of the readiness of the Government to assist was supplied by the formation and carrying out of forestry research, which was entrusted to the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. Lord Clinton said they were glad to learn of the fraternal feeling which characterised the attitude of the Governments to forestry questions. The delegates had been rather filled with dismay when they saw the programme of their itinerary, as it seemed like a feat of putting a quart into a pint pot.

ference should cable him its greetings. The suggestion was adopted. The delegates attended a State luncheon held in their honor at the Savoy Hotel. To-night they boarded a special train for the south-west to inspect mills and forests.