

made, but would be practically difficult to maintain. It might be retained unsold by the Crown, but to cover the loss in the price of the lot, the price per acre should be increased one third, for the value of the lot would be soon enhanced by the reservation of the wood in the 25 acres, by limiting the cutting on it annually to its annual average growth under penalty of confiscation of the reserved quarter. It should be reserved in detached clumps unconnected with the boundaries. In the old settlements in the province, where remaining woods were naturally in the rear ends of the lots, a fire getting into one swept over all that were on the line, from their being adjoining each other. Mr. Saunders, of London, Ontario, read a paper on the growing of poplar for the making of paper and charcoal, for which the demand and price of certain kinds of poplar had of late been greatly enhanced, such as the aspen and the white poplar and others. He says the balsam poplar or balm of Gilead will prove almost if not equal in value. It is the most rapid in growth and the easiest to transplant. The very branches or tops if cut or broken off will thrive if planted. I fell from the top of one 50 feet in height, taking the top piece, which broke off with me. I planted it, it is now a thriving tree, over five feet in girth.

Mr. Saunders on poplar.

Mr. B. F. Fernow read an able and exhaustive article on the conditions of forest growth, for which his European experience and education in forestry qualified him. Referring to the threatened difficulty of meeting the enormous demand for railway ties, when the use of iron for that purpose was spoken of and objected to, he said that in his country, where the government owned alike the forests and iron mines, it used iron superstructures to carry the rails instead of wood sleepers extensively, though having ample command of both, from which it is apparent that iron is sufficiently suitable—a fact that is, though remotely, of considerable importance to our country, that has an inexhaustible supply of iron ore, the same means of obviating the difficulty as Prussia. The most important part of the proceedings of the meetings of the Congress, as far as practically concerned the management of the public forests of Canada, was the appointment of a Committee, consisting of Mr. P. White, M.P., Mr. J. K. Ward, Dr. Mohr, the Hon. George Bryson, Professor Hough, and Mr. P. E. Fernow, to memorialize the Governments of the United States and Canada on the necessity of protecting their public forests.

Mr. B. E. Fernow. Iron extensively used instead of ties in Prussia.

Special committee. On memorial to the Governments to protect timber forests.

The report of this Committee, presented by the Hon. George Bryson, and adopted by the Congress, recommends:—

Adopted by Forestry Congress.

1st. The reservation of all pine and spruce lands unfit for settlement, for lumbering purposes exclusively.

2nd. The prohibition of the burning of brush by settlers in the vicinity of fir trees during the months of May, June, September, and October (July and August burning already interdicted in the province of Quebec).

3rd. The division of the timber country into districts, and the appointment of police under a superintendent with magisterial powers, whose duty it shall be to detect and punish offenders, and provide for the extinguishment of fires.

4th. The cost of the maintenance of this protection might partially be met by the imposition of a moderate tax on the parties owning or leasing timber lands.

On this subject I would remark that it has become a practice of the chief lumberers on the Ottawa to enforce every precaution in their power on their people for preventing such fires not only on their own premises, but also by having their rafts or saw logs accompanied by one or two reliable persons, whose duty it is to see that all necessary or other fires are duly extinguished. It is also a common practice when any of their men are discharged from their works to send a reliable person with them to see that all fires that there may be occasion to make are duly extinguished, and that no unnecessary fires be made.

Precautions against fires now used by lumber men.

It would seem most desirable that the reliable men so employed, by and on the responsibility of the lumberers, should be clothed with most ample powers as constables, and that the inspectors should have the necessary powers as magistrates.

I would particularly remark here, with regard to the interdiction of the burning of brush, that a point of importance has been overlooked in suggesting the period when it is interdicted, that is the unsuitableness of fixing one and the same period for the whole province, notwithstanding the great difference there is in the length of the seasons in different parts of it; May and October should be excepted from the interdiction on the eastern extremity of the province of Quebec, otherwise the clearing of land for cultivation in settlements there would in some seasons be rendered impossible or nearly so.

Period of burning should differ where length of season differs.