

to take a proper interest in the subject and co-operate with the authorities in the furtherance of such measures as are deemed desirable to that end. The forest area burnt over will, to a large extent, reproduce itself, and if protected from fires and other destructive agents, will, in a few years, restore much of what has been lost.

The Department of the Interior has lately been giving special attention to this important matter. A system of fire patrol was kept up last season at many points in Manitoba and the Territories; and wherever these patrols were established, no fires occurred to damage the woods. The heavy belts of timber which have been set apart as permanent reservations are being fire guarded, competent rangers having been placed in charge. But the people as a rule resist the efforts of the Government officials to enforce compliance with the timber regulations, and resent, as a hardship, the effort of these officers to prevent the careless and wasteful practices that the settler, in his selfish indifference to the general welfare of the community, seems so prone to follow.

One of our leading papers in a series of excellent articles on timber preservation which appeared about a year ago, suggested the establishment of a forestry bureau, having an efficient and responsible head, charged with the single duty of supervising all matters relating to the forests; and that he should be secured against all political, local or other interferences which could impair his usefulness in the performance of his duties; and that the laws should be enforced just as stringently as are those of the Customs or other branches of the Government.

I am debarred, by my official position, from entering into this phase of the question with greater particularity, but it is one which might be made a subject for discussion at some future meeting of the Society.

I shall feel amply repaid, Mr. President, if my slight and, I fear, somewhat superficial contribution, shall have been the means of stimulating an increasing interest in this very important subject.