

The Dominion Forest Reserves

"The Dominion Forest Reserves are intended to preserve and produce a perpetual supply of timber for the people of the prairie, the homesteaders' needs being considered of first importance. They are not intended to furnish wood for the lumber trade. Hence the policy of the Department is favorable to small mills rather than to large ones which need large tracts of forest and manufacture lumber beyond the needs of the settlers." In these words Mr. Knechtel, Inspector of Dominion Forest Reserves, defines the objects for which the Dominion forest reserves are being managed in Bulletin No. 3 of the Forestry Branch of the Department of the Interior.

Mr. Knechtel gives a list of the reserves, with the dates when they were set aside. The aggregate area of all the Dominion forest reserves is 16,312 1/2 square miles, divided as follows:

Manitoba 3,575 1/2 sq. miles.
Saskatchewan 740 sq. miles.
Alberta 9,702 sq. miles.
British Columbia 2,295 sq. miles.

Forest fires furnish perhaps the most serious problem met with in the administration of the reserves. This problem is more serious than in Eastern timberlands, Mr. Knechtel is convinced. The amount of rainfall and the number of rainy days is much less in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba than in the East. This Mr. Knechtel proves by figures taken from the "weather man's" report, giving these facts for Calgary, Qu'Appelle, Winnipeg and Toronto. Figures prove, too, that the wind, on the average, blows at twice the rate in Winnipeg that it does in Toronto.

The reserves are under constant patrol, summer and winter. In 1908 only two serious fires occurred on the reserves. Of these one on "The Pines" reserve, near Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, burned over 22 square miles, but destroyed no valuable timber. The other, in the Turtle Mountain reserve, burned over 28 square miles, mostly covered with grass. In both fires, however, considerable damage was done to young growth.

Various other methods of protection from fire, such as the burning of fire lines and the ploughing of fire-guards are also mentioned. Roads across the reserves and along their boundaries are also being constructed, largely with this end in view. One hundred and fifty miles of such roads were made last year.

Grazing on the reserves is another problem that has been considered. This will be allowed, under certain restrictions. Why should good grass be allowed to go to waste? the Inspector asks. The cattle, too, will eat up the dense growth of grass and peavine that is found in many places on the reserves. This, if tried, would furnish the best kind of fuel for forest fires. Moreover, cattle, in going to water, make for themselves narrow paths, which will act both as a check to the flames and a point from which to back fire.

On many of the reserves large areas have been destroyed by fire. Experiments are being carried on with a view to the restoration of these. Sowing the seed of trees, rather than the far more expensive planting is favored.

During 1906 a number of squatters were removed from the Biding Mountain and Turtle Mountain reserves, 135 from the former and twenty five from the Turtle Mountain reserve. Despite the delicate nature of the work those who were removed are so well pleased with the change that all have made affidavit to the effect that they have been well treated and are well pleased with the change.

The boundaries of the reserves are being marked and timber surveys conducted on them with the object of ascertaining the present

amount of timber and the annual growth.

How much timber is there on the reserves? Inspector Knechtel gives an approximate estimate as follows:

On the Manitoba reserves 602,933,000 bd. ft. of saw-timber and 6,250,000 cords of fuel wood; On the Saskatchewan reserves 55,000,000 bd. ft. of saw-timber and 690,000 cords of fuel wood; On the Alberta reserves 3,402,000,000 bd. ft. of saw-timber and 54,220,000 cords of fuel wood.

On the British Columbia reserves 60,000,000 bd. ft. of saw-timber and 6,000,000 cords of fuel wood. The species of timber growing on the reserves, with their average size and condition, are also stated.

The Bulletin gives in full the regulations for homesteaders' permits for cutting on the reserves. Proposed regulations for portable mills (the only kind to be allowed on the reserves) are also given. Regulations similar to these have already been imposed on one mill in the Cypress Hills (Alta.) reserve this winter and have apparently been a success.

A few words are also given to the use of the reserves as pleasure resorts.

The Bulletin is illustrated with a number of cuts. Copies may be obtained free from R. H. Campble, Superintendent of Forestry, Ottawa, Ont.

Newspaper Support

A newspaper, if it has any brains, conscience and muscle back of it, must continually decide between doing its duty and injuring its pocket. In any position than that of editor the public is able to separate the individual home from the collective citizen. But if an editor does not please them it is at his pockets they aim. Thus it is the newspapers learn who their friends are.

The man who reads the newspaper and admires it all the year around, yet gives his business support to some other concern, is not a friend to the former newspaper. There are too many men who expect an editor to slave in defence of their pet notions and hobbies, advocate their views against the strongest opposition and coolly withhold their business support, by which alone a country newspaper can live.

Talk about a paper having a public duty to perform and an editor having to work for his principle cheap when others stand back and extend a lukewarm neutrality—Seaford, (Del.) News.

Raymond Sugar Co. Plans For Coming Year

The Knight Sugar Company of Raymond will have 4,000 acres in sets this season. The company will cultivate themselves 3,000 acres while the settlers will cultivate the additional thousand. The company pay \$5.00 per ton for all the beets grown by the farmer. In addition to this they divide with the farmers the government bounty on the sugar manufactured, which brings the price paid for all beets grown to \$5.35 per ton.

The company manufactured 5,000,000 pounds of white granulated sugar last season.

The factory which is equipped with the most modern machinery, has a capacity of 12,000,000 pounds per season. There is therefore a good opening for many additional beet growers in the district.

The company have completed their new barn 150x65 feet with stalls for 136 horses. They have 200 working horses in connection with the industry.

The company recently shipped to market a carload of 70 hogs averaging 250 pounds each. They still have 300 hogs to dispose of.

Beet pulp is used to fatten cattle for the market and it makes beef of the best quality. 1,000 head of cattle will be feeding on this material by April 1st, about six weeks of feeding will put them in prime condition for the butchers.

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Good Settlers Coming

There is a big rush of settlers towards Western Canada now. Scores of carloads of settlers' effects are crossing the International boundary every day, and every boat that crosses the Atlantic carries hundreds of people immigrating to Canada.

We are informed that the country never received a better class of citizens than this year. The better class are encouraged to come here, and the undesirable kind are discouraged. The Old Country cannot now send out here the scum of the slums. The day has passed when an Old Country judge can impose upon a criminal the punishment of moving to Canada.

We learn also that the settlers coming this year are better fixed financially and that is a feature to be pleased with. The business men of the West will appreciate that.

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