

way nearly so. Sweden, the present great steel producing region, is rapidly approaching the same position. Germany and France are in the same situation. The United States, with their vast consumption and rapid increase of charcoal blast furnaces, will hardly be able to keep up their supply many years. Russia's freights and internal dissensions kill the possibility of a supply being drawn from her. Where then can the coming "Steel Age" derive its supply from unless from Canada with her extensive woodlands and rich ore beds."

Alas for prophecies!

A paper on "Forest and Fruit Culture in Manitoba," by Mr. J. W. Taylor, United States Consul at Winnipeg, was transmitted by the Government of that Province to be read at the Convention. As to the causes of the present condition of the treeless areas in the West, Mr. Taylor quoted a statement made by Capt. Palliser in 1858 as follows:—

"Large tracts of country now prairie lands have at one time grown valuable forests and their present absence is the result of the repeated ravages of fires. Where a scattered and stunted growth of willows is found as a general rule was ancient forest land, which when dug to a sufficient depth still discloses numerous roots of destroyed timber. It is most lamentable to see so often such masses of valuable timber destroyed, almost invariably by wanton carelessness and mischief. The most trivial sign of one Indian to another has often lost hundreds of acres of forest trees, which might have brought wealth and comfort to the future settler, while it has brought starvation and misery to the Indian tribes themselves by spoiling their hunting grounds."

It was noticed in the Red River Settlement, although the primeval forest along the course of the river consisting largely of oak, elm and ash, had been long cleared away, as much for building the block or timber houses of the early settlers as for fuel, that yet there had been a succession of poplar and other trees of quick growth. Artificial aids to the reproduction of the forest were however adopted such as the Tree Culture Claim Act of the Dominion Government, under which 160 acres of land might be obtained by planting part with trees under certain conditions.

An interesting item in the history of forestry legislation mentioned was an act passed by the Legislature of Manitoba in 1882 by which the residue of the great highways and road allowances, after reserving one chain for road purposes, can be transferred to adjacent owners on the payment of one dollar per acre. The strips of land contiguous to the highways were thirty-three feet on each side in the case of the great highways and eighteen and a half feet in road allowances. Contracts with