

7 EDWARD VII., A. 1907

## FOREST RESERVATIONS.

The result of the past year's work has not been collected yet, or at least not tabulated, but just to give an idea of the formation that we have regarding the Turtle Mountain reserve, I might say that from the measurements that were made—(every tree was not measured but strips were measured and an average taken)—it was found that we have over 77,000 cords of green fuel in those mountains, over 91,000 cords of dry wood, and over 1,000,000 feet of saw material—that is, timber fit for lumber. In the Moose Mountains we have 93,000 cords of green fuel, 100,000 cords of dry fuel, and something like 5,000,000 feet of saw material. I am speaking of the forest reserves. You perhaps will remember that at the last session of Parliament an Act was passed by which 21 forest reserves were created, part being in the railway belt of British Columbia and part in the two new provinces, and also in certain districts in Manitoba.

The whole area of these reserves is 5,391 $\frac{3}{4}$  square miles. The Act in question places the management of them under the Forestry branch, and also provides that these shall be more than simple timber reserves: they are to be reserved for fish, game and all the animals in them. We are endeavouring to work out a system of service there which I think will be of very great value. In our northern territory we have a country which, in addition to the very important asset of timber, contains valuable fur-bearing animals, and I can see no reason why these timber reserves should not also be game preserves, not only for the animals for the chase but also for the sake of the fur they will produce.

## TREE PLANTING.

I shall go on to speak of the tree planting. You are aware that since the year 1900 we have been engaged, in co-operation with the prairie settlers of the Northwest, in growing forest trees. This has grown to be a very important part of the work of the Forestry branch. I have tabulated the distribution of trees from the time that we started the work. In 1901 we supplied 18 farmers with 58,000 trees. In 1902 we supplied 415 applicants with 468,000 trees. In 1903 we supplied 627 applicants with 920,000 trees. In 1904, 127,000 applicants with 1,800,000 trees. In 1905, 1,122 applicants with 2,000,000 trees in round numbers. In 1906 there were 1,200 applicants who received 2,100,000 trees.

*By Dr. Barr:*

Q. Might I ask you, do you give those trees free to the farmers?

A. Yes.

Q. How do they send in their application?

A. If you will just pardon me one minute, I will explain this first. In 1907, this season, we have ready to distribute two million trees to 1,421 applicants. When we have distributed those that are now 'heeled in' ready to distribute, tied up ready for distribution this coming spring, we will have distributed a total of 9,346,000 trees, and the average number supplied to each applicant is 1,400.

Now, in answer to the question as to the system on which we proceed in this work, I would say that any applicant wishing to act in co-operation with the government in the growing of trees makes application to the office here. He may apply on a slip of paper or a postal card, or in any way at all and let us know that he wants to co-operate with us. We then send to the applicant a form which he fills out, giving the number of his lot, his post office address, express office and other information which we need. We do this because so frequently in writing the applicants do not give us this information. Upon that printed form they make their formal application which is filed. For next season the applications are coming in now, and next season every one of these applicants will be visited by an inspector who will inspect the ground and take notes of the kind of soil intended to be used. When we receive the inspector's report we will be able to determine what kind of trees will best suit that particular district. A little plan is made of the ground where they are to plant