

1901

WINNIPEG FORESTRY ASSOCIATION.

On the efforts of Mr. William Stewart, secretary for the Dominion, a forestry association has been formed in the city of Winnipeg. An organization meeting held last month at which "Trees for Shelter Belts" was read by P. Stevenson, of Nelson. He said that as Manitoba and the Territories were concerned it is most needed is not large forests, but groves and shelter belts for buildings and, with desirable ornamental trees and to make our homes beautiful and attractive the rule to be followed should be to begin with native trees.

Mr. Stewart outlined the forestry system proposed by the Dominion Government. An important timber reserve, he said, is that of the Riding Mountains. Forty-five townships covered—nearly a million acres. If these were covered of trees the Assiniboine would be a summer and a torrent in spring. In the mountains of the Rocky Mountains there is another

These reserves, he thought, should be protected by act of parliament. Irrigation would be useless without the forests. There would be no spring and drouth in summer. Other reserves are in the Moose Mountain and Turtle Mountain. One of the main features in the Dominion system would be instruction. A person wishing to avail himself of the forestry system should make application to the department at Ottawa, and the supervisor would tell him how to prepare the soil and where the trees should be planted.

An address was also given by Mr. S.A. Bedford, superintendent of the experimental farm, Brandon. On the motion of Rev. Dr. Bryce, seconded by Mr. Barclay, it was resolved that a forestry association be formed, to be called the Winnipeg Forestry Association, and to be open for membership to all parts of the province.

The constitution of the Canadian Forestry Association was provisionally adopted.

Seventeen names of the members were then read and the following officers elected: president, Lieut. Governor McMillan; vice-president, Rev. Dr. Bryce; secretary-treasurer, G. H. Greig, of Nelson; directors, Messrs. D. W. Thompson, C. J. Thompson, of Virden; F. Schultz, of Dur; E. F. Stephenson, Wm. Martin, Ald. Barclay, and R. T. Riley.

A meeting of the executive committee of the association was held on February 21st. Those present were Dr. Bryce, president; G. H. Greig, secretary; Ald. Barclay, C. J. Thompson, of Virden, and E. Stewart, representative of the Canadian Forestry Association.

The matter of extending the forest area of the province was considered, when it was unanimously decided to request the Department of Interior at Ottawa to increase the spruce woods reserve of Carberry by reserving the land belonging to what is known as the Sand Hill region as a central Manitoba park, and to ask the Dominion government, under its new forestry system, as soon as feasible to undertake the planting of the park with white spruce, Banksian pine, larch, fir, or other suitable trees in the same manner as was done on the Sand dunes along the coast of France for 150 miles and from two to five miles wide.

A committee consisting of the president, the secretary, Ald. Barclay, R. T. Riley and Wm. Martin was appointed to wait on the local government and educational authorities to ask that more systematic steps be taken to secure general observance of Arbor Day throughout the country, and especially by the schools of the province.

The matter of scattering literature widely throughout Manitoba and the Territories for the inculcating of the value of preserving the forests, and also of giving instructions as to how to grow the trees on the prairies, was discussed. It was unanimously agreed that this should be done and every effort put forth to support the new movement of the department at Ottawa.

A meeting of the Winnipeg association will be held near the end of March, when all members are expected to attend, and new members may join the association by sending an application to Mr. G. H. Greig, the secretary, enclosing on dollar.

THE CANADIAN FORESTRY ASSOCIATION.

The second annual meeting of the Canadian Forestry Association will be held at Ottawa on the 7th March next, commencing at ten a.m. The morning and afternoon sessions will probably be held in the Railway Committee Room of the House of Commons, as last year, and the evening session will be held in the Assembly Hall of the Normal School.

A very interesting programme has been arranged for this conference. The chief feature of the evening meeting will be a lecture by Dr. C. A. Schenck, principal of the School of Forestry at Biltmore, North Carolina, on "Governmental and Private Forestry," which will be illustrated by stereopticon views.

The following papers have already been promised:—"Forest Insects," James Fletcher, LL. D., Dominion Entomologist, Ottawa; "Forestry in British Columbia," J. R. Anderson, Deputy Minister of Agriculture for British Columbia; "Forest Management in New Brunswick," W. P. Flewelling, Deputy Surveyor General for New Brunswick; "The Pulp Industry in Relation to our Forests," J. C. Langelier, Superintendent of Forest Reserves for Quebec; "White Pine and its Economic Management," John Bertram, Toronto; "Forestry and Tree Planting in the West," F. Stewart, Dominion Superintendent of Forestry.

Other papers are being arranged for that will cover, as far as possible, the whole scope of the Association's activities, so that the report of proceedings may give a general view of the present position of forestry in Canada. The North-West will receive special attention.

The railway companies have repeated their great kindness of last year, and the Canadian Pacific, Grand Trunk, Canada Atlantic, Ottawa & New York and Intercolonial systems have agreed to allow members of the Association and their wives, when accompanying them, attending the annual meeting from points east of Fort William, return passage at single fare, provided a certificate is obtained from the agent at the point where the ticket for Ottawa is purchased, which must be signed by the secretary of the Association at Ottawa. This privilege will only be allowed commencing three days before the meeting and three days will be granted after the meeting to take advantage of the free return.

Special arrangements may be made for members from western points if they will advise the secretary immediately of their intention of being present.

The secretary should be notified regarding any papers, resolutions or other matters of importance requiring discussion which any member may wish to bring before the meeting, in order that arrangements may be made for giving them consideration. The secretary would also like to have information of any experiments or observations in tree planting or forestry which have been made by members of the Association or others.

The importance of the subjects to be discussed and the interest of the papers to be submitted should ensure a large attendance. A successful annual meeting will give a great impulse to the work of the Forestry Association, and will do much to establish it on a firmer basis and to advance the great objects it has in view. It is hoped that every member will make a special effort to be present.

FORESTRY AT BUFFALO.

Forestry will receive special attention at the Pan-American Exposition to be held in Buffalo this year. The exhibit will contain much that is interesting and beneficial to the general public.

The propagation, care, and preservation of forests has received a great deal of attention from the United States Government of late years. The United States division of forestry, under Gifford Pinchot, has made an unusually generous offer to all farmers or persons wishing to improve forests or plant wood lots. An expert will be sent upon application, at the expense of the Government, who will make an examination of the soil, climatic and atmospheric conditions, after which he draws up a plan for planting. He also instructs the farmer and his neighbors so far as possible in the elements of forestry. In the main this takes up the question of the proper kinds to plant in a particular soil and locality, the manner of planting and proper care of the trees until they attain maturity.

One of the most interesting features will be an illustration of the manner in which the mat of fallen leaves which covers the ground in the forest absorbs the rain as it falls, instead of permitting it to course down the hillside, to join the brook which helps to swell the river to overflowing.

Distribution of moisture will be made plain, as the work is done in the great chemical laboratory of nature—how the wet surface of leaves operates as an air-tight covering to prevent undue evaporation, while the myriads of tiny tree rootlets take up the water as it slowly percolates through this covering into the soil, from whence it is raised by a mysterious capillary force, through the trunk and branches to the leaves, where it is given off in the form of vapor through transpiration, to be once more precipitated to the earth in the shower or dew that waters the growing crop.

The forestry exhibit will be the special care of Supt. Frederic W. Taylor and will be housed in a building which of itself will be an interesting exhibit. With splendid natural resources to draw from, and the advanced knowledge of forestry as a help, it is the intention to make this the most interesting and practical forestry exhibit ever brought together.