

Forest wealth of Canada.

The present great need of providing protection and suitable administration for these reservations is to be met by the enactment of a law (H. R. 119) which, while less comprehensive than that contemplated in the fifty-second Congress (S. 3235), contains the essential features for a first step towards a more thorough organization, and recommends itself on account of its simplicity. Having been reported favourably by the Committee on Public Lands and placed on the calendar, its early passage, which is so necessary to a clinching of the policy expressed in the proclamation, is hoped for. This bill provides in the first place the use of the army for protection of the reservations. Experience in Yellowstone Park and elsewhere points out the efficiency of such a service, which is also satisfactory to the officers and troops, as it breaks the monotony of camp life, furnishes useful occupation, and keeps the troops in practice for field work.

The next important provision lies in the authority given to the Secretary of the Interior to regulate the use and occupancy of the reservations, thus settling their legal status. The sale of ripe timber from reservations and other public timber lands under such supervision as to insure the inviolability of the forest cover is also permitted, in the discretion of the Secretary. This provision, which has been severely criticised, is most important and essential to any kind of successful forest policy. Its absence from the statutes hitherto has been the fruitful source of depredations and forest destruction, for the resident population must be provided with wood material, and, in the absence of legal methods and fair means to do so, it is driven to supply its necessities by unfair means. As soon as a value is placed on the timber of the public domain it will be possible not only to dispose of it advantageously, but also to control the manner of its use without injury to the forest conditions and the future, and an interest in the same will grow up. In this or a similar provision, which attempts a rational use of the forest resources, lies the only salvation of our western forests and of the soil and water conditions dependent on the same.

The funds derived from the sale of ripe timber and other income are to be set aside for the purpose of establishing gradually a more amplified and effective system of forest management, so that the forest itself shall pay for its own protection.

State Governments are also becoming more active in regard to their forestry interests. New Hampshire acted in part upon the recommendations of its investigating forestry commission, by making the same permanent (with a new personnel), constituting the selectmen of the several towns firewardens with power, or allowing the commissioners to appoint special firewardens, the expense to be charged to town or county.

New York has passed new legislation having in view the final establishment of a compact State forest and also introducing some methods designed for the utilization of the spruce in the present State forest reserve. This last provision is faulty in that it is based on the misconception that the restriction of cutting to certain sizes is sufficient to preserve acceptable forest conditions.

Pennsylvania has passed a law establishing a well-considered plan of examining into the condition of its forest cover, especially at head-waters of rivers, with a view of formulating further action. The Pennsylvania Forest Association, which represents by all odds the most active, business-like and intelligent element in the forestry movement, has made this action possible; the association is thriving, increasing its membership constantly, and with the publication of its now nearly regularly issued *Forest Leaves* is the most powerful ally of the national association.

New Jersey is promising to enter the ranks of those States which recognize the importance of their forest areas, the first step being an examination by a committee of the State board of health into the needs of forest preservation on the highlands, the director of the Geological Survey having furnished the basis and first suggestion for such action.

Maine having inaugurated a tolerably satisfactory fire law, the north-eastern Atlantic States seem to be in a fair way of establishing a forest policy.

In the West we have to note rather a retrograde movement. California found it necessary to abolish for political reasons its forestry commission, inaugurated eight