



Pass Creek Summit, Waterton Lakes Park.

Courtesy Dominion Parks Branch.

agriculturists, looking at it from a purely agricultural standpoint, state that the maintenance of successful agriculture in the prairie depends upon this eastern slope being kept covered with a growing forest, and it is satisfactory to know that this whole slope, from the United States boundary northward to the northern part of Alberta, is now a great forest reserve. This fact of water storage is true of all other reserves in their location and degree.

Timber Production.

The timber on the forest reserves is viewed as a growing crop held in trust for the people of the West. The first duty is to protect it from fire and insects, and the second is to so regulate the cutting as to dispose of the dead and overmature timber and give the young growth a chance; thus it is purposed to keep up a perpetual supply of timber. This is the aim of the regulations, so far as concerns

the reserves, and as regards the citizens, the object is to supply them in the following order: (1) to give to each settler residing within fifty miles of a reserve a certain quantity of fuel and building logs, (2) to give to settlers the right to cut for themselves, or to have cut for them by licensed portable mills, certain quantities of timber, charged for at a nominal rate of dues, which timber must not be sold, but must be used by the settlers either on their own farms or in the construction of roads, municipal works, bridges, schools, churches, agricultural halls, etc., and (3) where there are considerable stands of fire-killed or overmature, to dispose of defined quantities of these public competition to commercial companies for sale in towns and village, or to mines, railways, and industrial establishments. This policy has been steadily pursued, and while the amounts of timber thus made available to

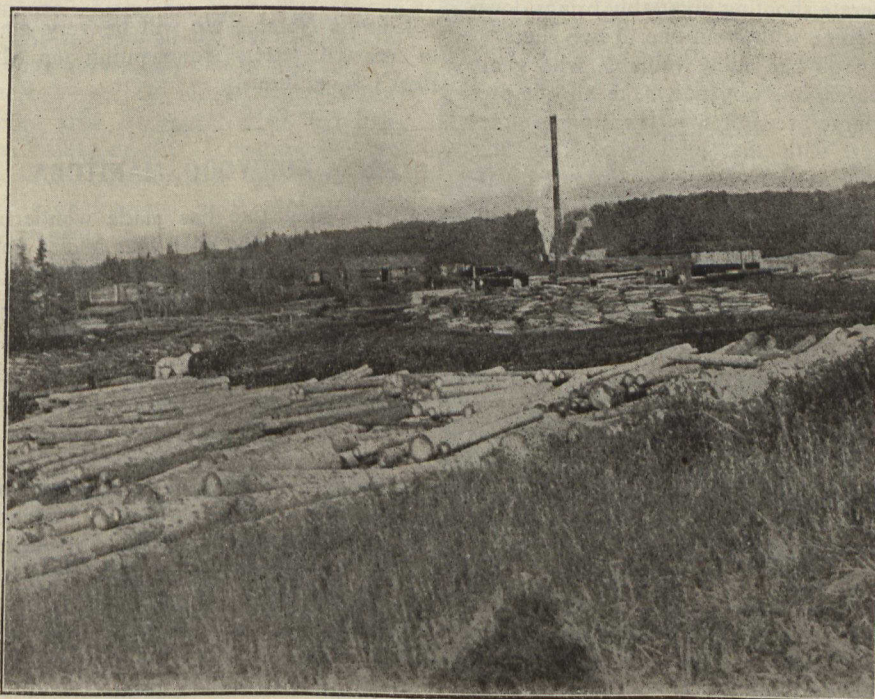
prairie dwellers would not seem large in a lumbering country, yet, having regard to the fact that these supplies are cut near at hand, with small, or no, charges, for transportation, and remembering also the scarcity of wood on the prairies, it will be seen that the reserves are an important factor in the agricultural and industrial development of the prairies. In France and other European countries, well managed forests have yielded an annual supply of timber for a century, and, to-day, contain more standing timber than when forest management was first applied. This is the ideal aimed at in the management of Dominion forest reserves, the attainment of which is sought by means of regulated cutting, by promoting natural regeneration, and by seeding and planting, when these are necessary.

Grazing 100,000 Head of Stock.

On some of the reserves there are areas, which, because of old fires, are not now under forest, but where the forest is encroaching on them. They are now bearing crops of native grass. There are, also, grass land areas which will probably never bear trees but which, by reason of the fact that they are surrounded by forest, must be administered by the Forestry Branch. On these areas there are now pastured about 100,000 head of stock annually, composed of cattle, horses, and sheep. The grazing is regulated, so as to permit each area to be grazed up to its full capacity without endangering the pasture. That this is meeting with the approval of the settlers is shown by the steady increase in this feature of forest reserve utilization. By this means settlers and ranchers are enabled to carry much larger herds than if they were restricted to their own property throughout the year.

Game and Recreation.

Another important feature of the forest reserves is the use which they serve as fish and game preserves and as places for healthful recreation. The game is under the supervision of the different provinces



Portable saw-mill on a Dominion forest reserve (prairie provinces) cutting lumber for settlers. As these mills saw only logs cut under settlers' permits this shows how the timber on the reserves is being used to supply the needs of settlers in the neighbourhood.