

KNOWLEDGE NECESSARY.

And what may such measures be?

It is clear that the first step should be to eradicate the inexcusable ignorance regarding this national property. Is it not common sense for the manager of any property, before he determines what is to be done with it, to become acquainted with the character, value and contents, and can a government, responsible to the future generations as well as to the present, do less?

A FOREST SURVEY THE FIRST NEED.

The first step then is in a forest survey. Millions of dollars have been wasted in surveying and subdividing land, absolutely uselessly, into squares, as if all the land were fit for settlement. Natural boundaries of rivers, lakes and mountains would in most places have sufficed to locate this information on maps. Such a reconnaissance survey should be mainly descriptive, segregating farm soils and the different forest types, with statements of their contents and condition, whether virgin, burnt or in good reproducing condition, swamps, etc. Such a survey for Nova Scotia, for instance, could probably be accomplished within one season, for an amount not to exceed \$10,000 to \$12,000.

It requires men who can see wholesale, can recognize types, of country and forest, can generalize and use judgment as well as eyes.

And when the lands surely fit for farm and orchard are definitely known, it is proper to have them withdrawn from forest use as fast as your increasing population can take care of them, and at the same time prevent rigorously the settlement or so-called settlement of the unfit areas.

BETTER FIRE PROTECTION ESSENTIAL.

There is no need pointing out, that the efforts in subduing the fire fiend, which lately have been everywhere more strenuous, must be still further increased if permanent forestry systems are to be applied. This protective service will become only really efficient when not a horde of casual temporary appointees, but a set of permanent forest rangers, fully occupied through the whole year, brings an interest into the woods which does not exist as yet.

Another way in which safety from forest fires can and will have to be increased, is to come from changing the attitude of people, timberlimit holders and governments towards their forest property. Hitherto it has always remained doubtful what is to remain in forest, what may be given over to settlement. When it is once understood that certain areas are destined to remain forest and to be permanently devoted to timber growing, this change of attitude will come about. Again the interest of