

FORESTRY POLICY

Townships Chiefly Valuable for Timber will be Reserved from Settlement in Future—Old Licenses—Reafforestation for Older Ontario—Farmers Wood Lot.

The very important question of forestry and reafforestation has been constantly before the Department, especially in its practical aspects. In the older parts, that is those given over to the timber licensee and to partial settlement, the Government is confronted with a condition, not a theory, and past methods of timber disposal have made it very difficult to settle upon and put into operation a uniform policy. In the newer and unopened districts the way is plain and it is possible to commence aright. **Under the new regulations, land adapted only for timber growing will not be opened for agricultural settlement, but set apart for its timber values permanently.** In this the Government seeks to improve on its predecessors, who opened for agricultural location and settlement townships which are splendidly suited to the lumberman, the summer camper and the hunter—suited, in fact, to almost anything but the growing of crops. When such townships are opened, the lots are located in many cases for no other reason than the timber, and when this is cut, the place is frequently abandoned, while the timber settler seeks, not "fresh fields and pastures new," but more timber. And when a township is only capable of partial settlement, the burden of maintaining roads, bridges and drains falls with increased weight, and the difficulty of educating the young is well nigh insurmountable. **To prevent this kind of thing the direction of settlement will from now on be carefully controlled.** A compactly settled township is a better thing for the Province and much preferable for the settlers themselves. It costs no more—less as a matter of fact—to build roads through a good agricultural township than through a rocky, hilly and swampy country.

THE VEXED QUESTION OF OLD LICENSES.

Some method of taking over the old licenses in Central Northern Ontario which were practically granted in perpetuity forty or fifty