

## ONTARIO FORESTS.

The clerk of forestry for the province of Ontario has issued his annual report covering the year 1897. He observes that the mistaken notion, so commonly and persistently held, that Ontario's supply of the best timber is inexhaustible has begun to give way, and that the necessity for giving the forests a better chance for reproducing themselves is recognized. Another idea that has been exploded is that the white pine, once cut away, would not be succeeded by another crop. What gave ground for this belief was the incontestable fact that white pine forests were nearly always succeeded by a short-lived growth of aspen, poplar and less valuable trees. This, however, it has been ascertained, was not due to any natural inability of the pine to reproduce itself in the soil which had yielded a forest of it, but to the fact that in nearly every case the ground had been overrun by fire after the timber was taken off.

Under the head of manufacturing development the clerk of forestry says: "The rapid development of the manufacture of paper from wood has altered the relative values of our forest trees, making some of them formerly of little use to us, very valuable indeed. This is notably the case with spruce, which in Ontario, south of the height of land, is rarely found large enough for board timber. The seeds of the spruce

germinate readily and grow so thickly in many parts of Ontario, especially in moist soil, that they attain but small diameter in a long period of growth, and because of this, lumbermen in estimating the value of timber limits in former years, when their license included all sorts of timber, took no account of any but pine. The rapidly developing demand for spruce for paper has recently caused a considerable value to be placed on many limits from which the merchantable pine has been taken. In this reference is made to the limits that were disposed of prior to 1892, since which time the spruce has been reserved by the crown."

## WHEAT IN THE FAR NORTH.

The question how far north wheat may be successfully grown is a question both interesting in itself and important in its bearings upon commerce. The Canadians are especially interested in this problem in view of the immense stretches of still unoccupied lands lying north of those now inhabited by white settlers.

In the west it is common knowledge that the wheat belt has been steadily widening to the north for a number of years, and is already known to reach far up into Athabasca, where the climate is moderated by the Chinooks, or warm winds from the Pacific. It has at least been demonstrated that flowers bloom on the shores of Great Slave Lake as

early as at Winnipeg. To the east, however, there has been more uncertainty as to the northern limits of the wheat area, the general supposition being, however, that the lands draining into James Bay, east of the central bad lands, although in the same latitude as Manitoba, were not suited to wheat culture. This view has lately been dispelled by Mr. Henry O'Sullivan, a surveyor in the employ of the Province of Quebec, who announces that he knows of his own knowledge that wheat will ripen far north of the divide and well up toward James Bay, having known at Waswanipi, a Hudson Bay Company's post, an agent who had not only grown abundant vegetables there, but also, at least two crops of wheat, which in quality compared favorably with wheat grown elsewhere in the province. This would extend the belt at least 200 miles further north of Toronto, the country between the divide and James Bay being all rich, level clay land. At Moose Fort, at the extreme southern end of James Bay, the missionary bishop annually raises his crops of vegetables.

The beto noir of the wheat grower in this northern country has been the summer frosts; but it would seem on examination that this danger is largely one of altitude.

It would appear, then, from this statement of facts, that the wheat belt of Canada averages 500 miles in width, by 2,000 miles in length, thus covering a greater area than any other part of the world possesses, ex-

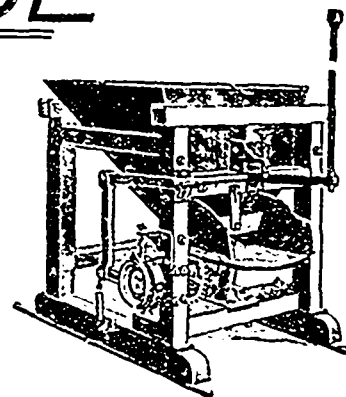
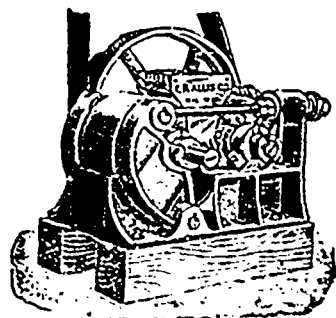
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