

an easy matter to carry out the work, owing to the numerous lakelets within the reserves. These will be used, when practicable, in forming portions of the line. It is proposed, in constituting the lines which will form the fire guards, to make them from 50 to 100 feet in width, as conditions may require, and to plow up the outer edges to a sufficient width to make it safe to burn between them. If, in the following year, harrowing is not found sufficient to make an effective break, re-plowing will take place, and afterwards, at the most favorable time, the strip between the guards burnt off.

The danger, from fire, to these belts of timber, comes chiefly from the west and north-west. There are two causes which, as appears to me, explain this. The first is, that the prevailing winds in the fall of the year, when the prairie fires are most prevalent, come from a westerly direction. The second, that while settlement is generally found on the east, north and south sides of these belts of timber, thereby affording a means of check to the fire coming from that direction, there is practically little or no settlement on the west.

The rapidity with which this country is being denuded of timber should claim the attention of everyone interested in its general welfare and prosperity. Speaking from my own observation, I have little hesitation in saying that within the last fifteen years our timber resources have been diminished by one-half; whereas, with adequate protection from fire, the natural increment would have been far more than sufficient to have supplied demands, without any diminution whatever. Many settlers who, a few years ago, had wood conveniently near their farms have now to haul long distances, in many cases under trying conditions, to obtain their supplies, or else are dependent upon coal. Instead of their fuel costing them nothing, as in former years, they are now in the position of having to pay from \$30 to \$50 a year for this commodity. What this condition of affairs would mean if it became general, can easily be imagined.

Devastating fires occurred last year on Moose Mountain and on Turtle Mountain. A large number of men were em-