

FARM FORESTRY IN THE EASTERN PROVINCES.

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There can be no phase of forestry, which fortunately is beginning to receive somewhat of the great attention which it deserves from the central authority, as essential to the general prosperity of the country as well as productive of direct influence on the conservation of its great water sources, the health of its people and the beauty and charm of life amongst us—nothing so eminently practical in its effect on the greatest number of our population as farm forestry. The farmer in the more fortunate wood-growing divisions of Canada has only within a comparatively short time awakened to the value of trees not only as a source of fuel supply—and fuel will always be a heavy charge against farm revenue—and the lumber which is always a requisite about the place, but as a temperer of the adverse winds, a protector of the fruit plantation, the pasturing cattle, the dwellers on the steadings themselves; and as a source of beauty and comfort beyond anything else we can name.

Having to contend with the great forest at settlement, it is not wonderful that it was considered by the average pioneer an enemy; and, therefore, to be removed at the earliest possible moment. Even where wood and wood products were little sought, the torch and axe were in requisition until all the acres of the holding were for the most part bare and treeless. This did not so much matter where the misguided operator was somewhat isolated, but when all the land became occupied and a general policy of destruction was adopted, the effect was signally adverse to the productiveness of the lands and the comfort of the land holders. In the large provinces, even areas which would constitute states in smaller and less favoured countries were thus stripped; in the smaller provinces the dire result of such a short-sighted policy became more and more of an affliction. The new additions to the older provinces formed a magnificent reserve and afforded all the timber supply necessary for local requirements; the older sections began to find out the error of complete denudation; the public mind became awakened and informed to sane principles; and early an attempt to retrieve lost ground was discernible. That disposition to help themselves on the part of the people has actuated the Government of Ontario in the generous and organized system of re-