

THE DOMINION FOREST RESERVES.

INTRODUCTORY.

It would almost seem as if the white race had begun wrong on this continent. Needing cleared land for agriculture we started in the woods, and now when we need woods we start on the cleared land. The arrangement was not an economic one. The prairie should have been located near the Atlantic and the woodland in the Northwest. Arranged as it was, with the forest on the land that was close to the market for its products, forest destruction was at first a necessity, and later became a habit. Fire, the good servant in clearing the land, ran rampant carrying forest devastation far beyond the necessities of the people.

The earliest settlers, coming from Europe were used to forest conservation. They had practised it in the countries from which they came. Forest destruction was to them a new thing; but the forests were so vast that they thought there could never be a scarcity of wood, and they reasoned that the more the forest was destroyed, the more the agricultural interests of the country would be advanced. But the modern settler sees the forest in a different light, especially so in the great Northwest where on the wide prairie wood is a luxury. To him forest conservation is the necessity, not forest destruction. He has no delight in the devastation of the woods by fire, and he hails with hope legislation and management tending to improve the condition of the forest. He sees clearly that his comfort and his agricultural interests are closely dependent upon a plentiful supply of wood.

The country is so vast and the demand for wood so great, it is a tremendous problem to so manage the forests that this demand may be met continuously. Hope seems to lie in the creation of forest reserves, and the policy of setting aside land to be used as forest reserves is now pretty well established by the Dominion Government.

The Dominion Forest Reserves are intended to preserve and produce a perpetual supply of timber for the people of the