

them again this winter. The outcome of the sale, although not entirely unexpected, is in striking contrast with the result of the Ontario government sale held one week later, at which competition was keen and fair prices realized. Particularly is this the case when the situation of the limits is considered. Those of McLachlin Bros. are on waters adjacent to the Ottawa river, and favorably located for catering to the British market, while the government limits, situated in the north-west part of the province, are to a greater extent dependent upon the United States market. To the forethought of the government in dividing the limits into small blocks is due, we think, the success of the sale.

THE development of mining properties in British Columbia and the Klondike is providing employment for a number of workmen, and consequently the country at large is certain to benefit. Of late years the number of workmen who sought employment in the lumber woods has been greatly beyond the demand, a condition which has to some extent regulated the price paid for labor. The wages of woodsmen last winter, particularly in Ontario, were lower than for many years past, and steps were taken to form a labor organization with the object of securing greater remuneration. What the situation will be this winter, in the face of the United States duty on lumber, it is difficult to say, but it would appear that there would be fewer persons dependent upon the lumber business for their livelihood. Late reports from the Ottawa district are to this effect. With the development of the vast farming and mineral resources of our western provinces, the congested condition of the labor market in Ontario promises to be relieved, and then, and only then, can workmen hope to secure a higher rate of wages.

FORESTRY IN ONTARIO.

THE second annual report issued by the present Clerk of Forestry, Mr. Thomas Southworth, sets forth the many advantages to be derived from systematic forestry in a very able manner. Owing to the appointment by the Ontario Government of a Royal Commission to report fully on the question of reforestation, and the fact that this commission is expected to present some practical scheme for the consideration of the Government, Mr. Southworth's report is not as comprehensive as would otherwise have been the case.

Attention is given to the question of forestry on the farm, and it is shown that by cultivating a crop of timber on a portion of the land, good financial results would shortly accrue. Again, thirty of the counties of the province have less than twenty-five per cent. of their total area under timber, and throughout the greater part of southern Ontario the percentage of forest has been reduced to far below that which should have been retained to ensure the perpetuation of these favorable conditions.

Competent judges of forest conditions in the United States, says Mr. Southworth, estimate that the supply of white pine in that country will not be adequate for their home consumption for many years to come at the present rate of cutting, while the fact that all or nearly all their white pine lands are held by private parties

renders any attempt at reforestation by the state on any large scale out of the question. When this period arrives, when the United States has no more pine to export, the price of this wood will be considerably enhanced, rendering scientific forestry practice in Ontario not only possible but profitable. In countries where the price of lumber is much higher than here, a very expensively managed forestry system returns a handsome profit over all expenses. The net revenue to the state from the forests of Prussia is about \$6,000,000 yearly, and this in spite of their limited area as compared with ours, and the expense of their forest administration, which reaches about \$8,000,000 per annum.

The white pine is our timber tree of commerce and has no successful rival in its particular field. At the same time it should not be lost sight of that we have in large quantities other woods of great and increasing value. Aside from the white and black spruces, to which reference is made elsewhere in this report, there is a growing demand for many of our hardwoods, and in any plan of future forestry operations these must also be considered. Until recently most of our export in hardwoods has gone to the United States, through whose merchants, doubtless, much of it ultimately reached Great Britain and Europe. It is a matter of congratulation that our direct trade with Britain is steadily increasing in hardwoods and manufactures of wood generally. Because of its nearness our timber exporters have heretofore been at greater efforts to cultivate the United States market, making little effort to ship to Britain anything except square or waney timber and deals, to be manufactured by the British saw millers. Were our mill men better acquainted with the needs of the British market there is no doubt a very profitable trade could be done there in lines we have not been exporting to that market at all. Already a trade in furniture and a few other lines is developing between Canada and Britain, and the Bureau of Forestry is in receipt of frequent inquiries from Britain regarding ash, maple, birch and manufactures of wood of various kinds. There is no doubt the United States market has been at times a profitable one for our lumbermen, but in view of the great uncertainty attending it in consequence of the fluctuations of their customs tariff it would seem to be a wise policy to devote more attention to secure an extension of trade with Britain, which, when secured, may be relied upon.

Considerable quantities of some of our hardwoods are now going to Britain from Ontario. The latest inquiry received by the Bureau in this respect was through the Imperial Institute, London, from the carriage makers of Great Britain, for ash used in carriages. The wood they have so far used is the European ash, not grown here, but our white ash of second growth provides a good substitute and the price offered for it will make it a very profitable wood to grow. A mixed growth of deciduous and evergreen trees is much less liable to danger from fires than a pure evergreen forest and in a scheme of reforestation this needs to be kept in view, more particularly since, as above pointed out, our deciduous trees are likely soon to have a value considerably in excess of the present one.

Aside from the advantages of the protection of

climate and water supply and the revenue to the province, there are other factors in this question of reforestation of the waste lands of the crown that are frequently overlooked. At our present rate of cutting, unless something is done in the way of restoring to a tree covered condition the non-tillable portion of the crown lands now lying waste, the lumber business and allied trades will become extinct for want of raw material. Just what this would mean to the people of the province is not generally understood. Besides the large mills cutting timber from crown lands there are over 1,500 other mills, large and small, in the province, employing a large number of men, furnishing the farmers with a local supply of lumber and affording a market for their mature and, sometimes it is to be feared, immature timber.

The volume of trade dependent on the products of the forest in this country is very large. Most of the industries are to some extent dependent upon the forest and its products, while many of them derive nearly the whole of their raw material from this source. According to the last Dominion census industries dependent directly upon the forest, exclusive of logging and the wood pulp industries, beside some minor industries, such as picture-frame making, had a capital invested in land, machinery and buildings of \$18,073,000, employed 39,500 people directly, with a wage roll of \$11,810,000, and a yearly output of the value of \$45,643,471. Besides the people directly employed in these industries a very large number are engaged in the woods, hauling freight, and in other ways derive their living wholly or in part from forest industries.

It is true many of these mills subsist upon the supplies drawn from the farmers' wood lots and are not dependent on the crown lands, but the unwise policy of farmers in clearing their farms of all or nearly all the timber upon them is likely to close many of them. Many saw mill men in correspondence with the Bureau of Forestry complain of their inability to get a sufficient quantity of logs from farmers to keep their mills running, and desire new locations where an adequate supply can be obtained. If the farmers worked their wood lots properly, and planted up some of their waste and poor pasture land to trees, the present supply of timber from this source would be constant. The decadence of this industry because of the want of timber would be a calamity to this country, and it is the duty of government so far as possible to prevent it. The investigation of forest conditions in Ontario, and also by the forestry departments in various states of the Union, has established the fact that it is quite possible here, as in Europe, to secure successive crops of our most valuable timber trees. It is satisfactory to note that when this fact was brought to the attention of the government measures were taken to ascertain how these crops could best be provided for.

Messrs. W. Brodie and A. Kirkwood have contributed papers to the report on "Entomology" and "The Manufacture of Wood Charcoal" respectively.

Mr. Geo. Webster, of Creemore, has decided to purchase Beatty's old mill site at Parry Sound and erect thereon a mill next fall.