

pine may be issued, and generally for better assuring the execution of the present Act.

Perhaps, however, the most important step yet taken by the Government of the Dominion is that for the delimitation of forest parks in the Act of last year, assented to on 19th April 1884. The Homestead Entry Acts have been found, both in Canada and the United States, to interfere materially with forest operations on a large scale. By clause 4 of the Act of 19th April 1884, the 39th clause of the said Act is repealed, and the following clause substituted for it:—

39. The privilege of pre-emption in connexion with a homestead entry shall be discontinued from and after the first day of January A.D. 1887.

Clause 5 enacts:—

The Governor in Council may from time to time, for the preservation of forest trees on the crests and slopes of the Rocky Mountains, and for the proper maintenance throughout the year of the volume of water in the rivers and streams which have their sources in such mountains and traverse the north-western territories, reserve from sale, lease, or license such portions of land in the north-west territories on, adjacent to, or in the vicinity of the Rocky Mountains as to him appears expedient so to reserve, and may define the limits or boundaries of such reserves; and may set aside and appropriate such lands for a forest park or forest parks as he deems expedient, and may appoint officers for the preservation of such reserves and forest parks.

2. Statements showing such reserves and appropriations with the necessary maps, shall be laid before Parliament within 15 days after the commencement of the session held after such reserves or appropriations have been made.

3. Whoever wilfully cuts down, breaks, barks, roots up, removes or destroys, or causes to be cut down, broken, barked, rooted up, removed or destroyed, any tree, sapling, shrub, underwood, or timber growing in and upon any such reserve or forest park, shall for every such offence incur a penalty not exceeding 100 dollars, and not less than 10 dollars, to be recovered with costs of prosecution in a summary manner before a stipendiary magistrate, commissioner of police, or any two Justices of the Peace, under the provisions of the Act passed in the 32nd and 33rd years of the reign of Her present Majesty, chapter 31, and intituled "An Act respecting the duties of Justices of the Peace out of Sessions in relation to Summary Convictions and Orders," and in default of immediate payment of the said penalties, and of the costs of prosecution, the offender may be imprisoned for any period of time not exceeding three months. This Act to be read as one with "The Dominion Lands Act, 1883."

Forest Fires.

Wherever forests exist danger from fire, the result of accident, neglect, malice, or natural causes, constitutes a problem of the greatest magnitude. Many square miles of forest in India, Europe, and the Continent of America have been lost owing to this cause. Stringent regulations have been put in operation in all countries, but perhaps it is not too much to say that we are still without perfectly assured means of wholly preventing such calamitous occurrences, in which the sacrifice of human life is not infrequently an additional element to be deplored.

I therefore do not apologise for submitting in full the text of what appears to be a well considered measure for some years in operation in the province of Quebec.

46 VICT. CHAP. 10.—An Act to provide means for the more effectual prevention of forest fires.

Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislature of Quebec, enacts, as follows:

1. The Lieutenant-Governor in Council may, by proclamation, declare any portion or part of the province of Quebec which is included in any forest region to be a "fire district." Such proclamation shall be published in the Quebec Official Gazette, and, from and after the date of such publication, the territory therein mentioned shall become and be known as a "fire district," within the meaning and for the purpose of this Act. Such territory shall cease to be a "fire district," upon the publication of a proclamation of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council revoking the one creating it.

2. It shall not be lawful for any person to set or cause to be set or started any fire in or near the woods, within any such fire district, between the first day of April and the