

CONDITIONS DURING THE FRENCH REGIME.

The country was taken for the king of France by JACQUES CARTIER in 1534, but it was over a century later before anything began to be heard about the timber as an asset. The first timber regulations, as appears from a grant of land made in 1683, were made in regard to the reservation of oak to build the King's ships. The remainder of the timber was of no consequence. In fact, as the first need of the colonists was food, the endeavour was to get cultivated land upon which crops might be raised, and the forest was deemed an enemy to be conquered and obliterated. During the French regime the timber was not considered apart from the land. The colony was divided up into large blocks of land, from 100 to 500 square miles in extent, which were granted to seigniors or feudal lords upon conditions involving the settlement of these lands with tenants or retainers, commonly called "habitants", who held whatever rights they had, not from the Crown but from the seignior, under feudal tenure.

Timber formed such a negligible part of the commerce of that day that the only question considered was its apportionment among the different parties to these land grants, the Crown, the seignior and the "habitant".

The determination of the pioneer settlers to get rid of the trees which encumbered their lands and their use of fire for this purpose was later felt in the shortage of timber for fuel in the immediate neighbourhood of centres of population, so that by 1720 stringent laws were passed against trespassing by the inhabitants of towns and villages on the lands of their neighbours to cut fuel.

NEW REGULATIONS WITH BRITISH OCCUPATION.

When the British took possession of New France in 1763 their solicitude, like that of the French, was to secure timber for the building and repairing of the royal navy — oak (*Quercus alba*, or *Q. rubra*) for hulls and pine (*Pinus strobus* or *P. resinosa*) for masts. But their views went a step further than those of their predecessors. They desired not only to secure existing stands of oak and pine, but also deemed it advisable that any areas particularly suited to the growing of these species should be set apart and protected, so that they might supply timber in perpetuity. The instructions of the British Government to the first Governor, JAMES MURRAY, are clear on this point and these instructions were repeated when Governor GUY CARLETON took up his duties in 1775.

If this policy had been followed, and non-agricultural lands reserved for timber as settlement advanced into the country, the whole history of timber regulations and the development of the timber industry in Canada would have been changed and Canada would have been better off in regard to both agricultural and forest development, but this was not to be. Such a policy of examination, segregation and conservation was over a century in advance of the time. Nor, regrettable as was this falling away from an