

the officer, to whom the work of examining proposed Forest Reserves of this character has been entrusted, has more than the ordinary knowledge of soils. Every quarter-section must be carefully examined and a correct classification of the land by climate, topography, and soil into agricultural and non-agricultural land made. Lands that are positively adapted for continuous production of farm crops or are chiefly valuable for agriculture should be excluded, while lands that are undoubtedly non-agricultural or lands that possess minor agricultural possibilities but are more valuable for the growing of crops of timber should be included in the proposed reserve.

Providing Farm Needs

Areas unfit for farming in the settled portions of the central provinces are comparatively few, and it is of great importance that all available land of this class be devoted to the growing of timber, thus to relieve to a greater or less degree the need of firewood, fence posts, and small building timber, which always is felt in the treeless prairies.

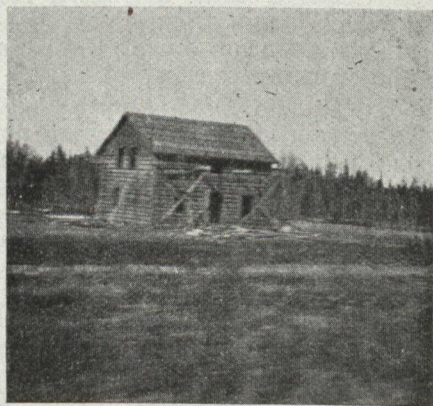
Proposed forest reserves in unsettled districts do not require such a careful examination. The reconnaissance in this case is more in the nature of an exploration in contrast to the survey of the proposed reserves in the old settlements which really takes the form of a more or less intensive soil survey. Here large areas of unsettled and largely or entirely unsurveyed lands are involved and anything but a rapid reconnaissance is at the present time impracticable and out of the question. This does not mean, however, that care should not be exercised by the forester in determining proposed reserve boundaries. On the contrary the future possibilities of the land should be considered and the inclusion of agricultural land should, wherever it appears in appreciable quantities, be avoided unless its temporary reservation is considered advisable until such time as the present crop of timber thereon has been removed.

Isolated small areas of good farmland in the interior of the proposed reserve which cannot be eliminated from the proposed reserve by any readjustment of boundaries may, however, very well be included until a soil survey of the reserve can be made.

A survey of this kind is, of course, only preliminary. Its principal object is to have defined by settled lines and placed under the jurisdiction of the Forestry Branch a tract of lands which is (in the main) non-agricultural and is or will become, if properly protected, of considerable value as forest land.

Cultivate Public Opinion

The officers in charge of a reconnaissance party should always make it a point to acquaint himself with the views held by settlers that live in the vicinity of the proposed reservation, in regard to the establishment of a Forest Reserve. He should explain to the farmers that the creation of a Forest Reserve means protection of timber, grazing, and water supply for the use of the farmer himself. The idea is here and there prevailing that a Forest Reserve is created to prevent the "poor man" from getting his supply of firewood and building timber. This opinion, which of course tends to make the Forest Reserves unpopular, should be discouraged.



Excellent Type of Farm House being Built by the Ontario Government for Accommodation of Soldier-Settlers at Kapuskasing, Northern Ontario.