

prising 1,109,000 acres. Another reserve of 80,000 acres was afterwards set aside in the Counties of Addington and Frontenac; then an area of 40,000 acres near Port Arthur, and last year the pine bearing region around Lake Temagami, covering 1,400,000 acres had been constituted a reserve, making in all upwards of two million and a half acres. Other areas, which might on survey be found suited for the purpose, might be added to the list under the authority given to the Government by the

Forest Reserves Act of 1893.

In the United States this question had been forced upon the national and state governments by popular agitation. Influential societies and prominent newspapers took the matter up and urged it on the attention of legislators. In Ontario the Liberal Government led the movement. They grappled with the problem of their own accord, and created the public sentiment necessary to enable them to carry out their views. Only a short time ago widespread misconceptions on the subject prevailed. It was the general popular belief that the pine forest would not reproduce itself—that when the original growth was once removed, nothing but inferior kinds of timber would succeed it. This impression was shared even by experienced lumbermen. The latter, consequently, sought to clear off their limits as quickly as possible without looking forward to a fresh growth as a future asset. It had now been clearly established and was generally understood, that the first growth of pine when cleared away, would be succeeded by another, if due care was taken to keep out fire. In short, it had been shown that it was possible and profitable to treat the forest like a farm, reaping periodical crops of the

mature timber, and preserving the conditions favourable to the growth of another timber harvest.

The whole lumbering industry was being put upon a more stable and permanent basis. The establishment of the system of fire-rangings in 1885 and its subsequent extension had greatly lessened the danger of loss from fire. The confidence and co-operation of the lumbermen had been secured. They were induced to see that, with proper precautions against forest fires, their interests were best served, not by wholesale and indiscriminate cutting, but by taking out the larger timber and letting the younger trees attain maturity.

The Opposition had had no share in shaping the policy of the Government on this question. They had done nothing but shriek hysterically, "Woodman, spare that tree," whenever the Government held a timber sale. There would be about as much sense in crying "Farmer, spare that wheat," when harvest time came.

The Principle of Economic Forestry

was that every tree should be cut as soon as it had attained maturity, and that another should replace it. The Opposition had shown no intelligent grasp of the situation. On April 4, 1894, they introduced a resolution to strike out the appropriation for salary and disbursements of the Clerk of Forestry, on the ground that the office should be discontinued. On April 10th, 1895, they again opposed the vote, but on a totally different ground. Mr. Howland moved that it should be struck out,—“the same being inadequate for any useful purpose in that behalf.” Messrs. Whitney and Miscampbell, who the year before had voted for the abolition of the office as being unnecessary, stultified themselves by also supporting the latter motion, which admitted