

D E P A R T M E N T

The prairie provinces must have an abundant supply of forest products in order profitably to plant and harvest crops. If the lumber each farmer is obliged to buy, comes from his own provincial storehouse up north, so much the cheaper, so much the better for home industry. If it comes on long hauls from Ontario or British Columbia, so much the dearer for him and the less will be his operating profit. To restore the prairie province forest areas to anything like a productive capacity equal to a doubled population will require a spending programme on fire prevention and replanting in comparison with which the possible revenues cannot make a showing for at least 50 years. The Dominion Government, which now controls the forests of the prairie provinces, pays out for necessary forest administration each year much more than is received from all sources of forest and grazing revenue. For many years to come this toilsome process of fire prevention and restoration will have to continue, with little immediate prospect of extracting revenues comparable with the outlay.

* * *

Conditional Dividends!

The forests of Quebec, says one authority, are worth 600 million dollars.

The forests of Ontario are worth probably as much more.

If you live in either province you are a preferred shareholder in a 600 million dollar estate.

By all the laws of probability your property in ten years time will advance in value to a degree now unsuspected. Your lowered tax bill, the state of industrial development and increased employment will presently furnish the proof.

The only factor that can blight your expectations is the Forest Fire.

Nine out of ten forest fires are wantonly started by those who most need and most use the forest.

We who own the forests are the first to destroy them.

HE SEEMS TO LIKE US

Canadian Forestry Association, Ottawa:—Enclosed please find cheque for membership and subscription for 1922. I always enjoy the Magazine. The photos alone are worth more than the subscription price, and there are some splendid articles as well.

Yours truly,

R. E. Van FOSSEN,
Luseland, Sask.

YEARLY INDEX AVAILABLE

Readers of the Illustrated Canadian Forestry Magazine who have kept a file of the 1921 copies of this magazine may secure an Index to the contents, alphabetically arranged, by writing in to this office for same.

The Editor's Mail-Box

MORE ABOUT THE BUFFALO

TO THE EDITOR, The Forestry Magazine:—Mr. Moberly's letter on this subject in your February issue, is interesting, and no doubt correctly accounts for the disappearance of the Buffalo herds still existing in his time. In this regard one would not think of questioning the verdict of a gentleman of his experience. But the herds seen in 1869, vast though they may have been, were, after all, but the remnants of the myriads that once roamed the prairies of the West. The process of decimation took various forms, not the least of which was the ruthless slaughter by the Indians. But another and perhaps greater cause is exhibited in the following letter, written by John Macdonell, brother of Miles Macdonell, first Governor of the Red River under Lord Selkirk, and himself an old Nor'wester. This letter, which was addressed to another and younger brother in Boston, bears date, Montreal, November 16th, 1815, and refers to a period three quarters of a century before Mr. Moberly ever saw the prairies.

"To give you an idea of the numbers of buffaloes who occasionally frequent those parts, I shall relate that in May, 1795, I got on board of my canoe, at sunrise, left the forks of the river Qu'Appelle, and put up for the night at sunset the same day at a place called the Grand Bois, after having, from the canoe, counted 7,360 carcasses of buffaloes dead (i.e. drowned and mired) on the river and on its banks."

Such a sight, he adds, seldom occurred, and he had himself witnessed it but once, in a residence of twelve years on the Red River. But it must be remembered that he refers to one stretch of river front only, and that the famous glue-like brand of clay is not confined to the Red River. Macdonell's original letter, which was formerly in my possession, is now in the Library of Parliament at Ottawa, bound up with a copy of Lord Selkirk's own account of his experiences as Governor of the Red River.

Yours truly,

H. F. McINTOSH.

Toronto, March 22, 1922.