

RESULTS OF GOVERNMENT POLICY

The beneficial results of the far-seeing and energetic policy of the Government are to be seen on every hand. The condition of the settler has been vastly improved, his prospects brightened, his land enhanced in value, and hope given him for the future. Settlers of a splendid type, well fitted for this north country, are taking up land in ever-increasing numbers, particularly in Rainy River, Thunder Bay, Algoma and Timiskaming. In the last-named district several hundred more settlers have gone in and taken up land in the last two years than in all the years prior thereto. When the National Transcontinental Railway, the Canadian Northern Railway and the Algoma Central Railway are fully completed and in operation, and the lands tributary to these lines thrown open for settlement, it is confidently expected settlement will proceed in Northern Ontario in a most satisfactory manner and as rapidly as prudence and judgment will desire.

TIMBER RESOURCES CONSERVED

The Whitney Government has continued the sound policy introduced by it when taking office of selling only such timber as is damaged by fire, and must of necessity be cut in order to save its value to the public, and when selling has divided the territory up into small berths so that the men of limited means might have an opportunity of purchasing timber. Further, it has kept up the practice of putting the timber up for sale at a rate per thousand feet instead of in large areas by the square mile, by which practice it is ensured that all the timber on the territory sold shall be paid for.

TIMBER DUES RAISED

A considerable increase in the value of standing timber under license having taken place, the Government considered the time had arrived when an increase in timber dues and ground rent should be made in order that the province might share to a reasonable extent in the increment or value. Accordingly the rate of dues on old licenses was increased from \$1.00 to \$1.50 per thousand feet board measure, and on square timber from \$20 to \$50 per thousand feet cubic, and the ground rent all over the province was increased from \$3.00 to \$5.00 per mile. A substantial increase in revenue has been the result of this policy.

In view of the fact that the licensees were the principal beneficiaries in the protection of the standing timber on their limits from fire, the Government has also arranged with the licensees that they shall pay the whole cost of fire-ranging on lands which are under license, instead of the province paying one-half, as had hitherto been the practice. The licensees agreed to this, and the province was relieved of a considerable expenditure of money, which was devoted to giving increased protection by fire-ranging the timber on the unsold lands and property of the province.

There has been no relaxation in the efficiency of fire-ranging on licensed lands, the territory under license being divided into districts and a qualified ranger being put in charge of each district to see that the licensees put on the proper number of fire-rangers to protect the territory, and that they were kept on duty during the dangerous period and performed their work. It has also placed fire-rangers along the lines of railway construction through the rear part of the province to see that proper care was exercised by contractors and others in the use of fire.

FOREST RESERVES INCREASED

A further step in the direction of the conservation of Crown timber was taken by adding 1,896 square miles of timber lands to the Mississauga Reserve. Ontario now has six Reserves, with an area of 19,000 miles, specially set apart for the conservation and protection of timber, the idea being to put into forest reserves and withdraw from sale for settlement or other purposes all areas where there are large bodies of Pine timber.