

were pastured on the adjoining unprotected Sierra Reserve. And yet this might easily have been prevented by a squad of soldiers, had such a detail been available.

The delay of Congress in providing for the care of the reservations, however, does not relieve the President of responsibility for delay in creating others. Let the imagination rest for a moment on the opportunity that Mr. Cleveland has. What a chance to serve the country and posterity. What unseen dangers may be averted and what blessings conferred upon generations to come. The warnings of science are imperative. The authority of law is ample. By one stroke of the pen he can make a reservation, for instance, at the headwaters of the Missouri, which, without interfering with private rights, shall control for all time for the public the sources of that great stream. The country would not fail to greet with favour a well-considered scheme for similar tracts in the entire west. Such action would be an honourable challenge to the patriotism and good sense of Congress, qualities which are never found wanting in a crisis; and the necessary legislation for the patrol and care of the reservations would be all the surer to follow by reason of the magnitude of the beneficent scheme.

## APPENDIX "Q."

### DOMINION PARKS AND FOREST RESERVES.

In consequence of the discovery of the hot mineral springs near Banff station, an Order in Council was passed on November 25th, 1885, reserving a tract of land in that region. Subsequently, by Act of Parliament, in 1887 (chapter 32) the "Rocky Mountains Park," including this tract, was set apart as a permanent reserve for a public park, comprising 260 square miles, being 26 miles long and 10 wide. It includes a number of mountains with peaks extending to an elevation of nearly 10,000 feet. The Bow River flows diagonally through it, with an easterly course, nearly fifteen miles long, and is joined within the park by its tributaries, the Spray River, the Cascade River and several creeks. The Minnewanka or Devil's Lake, more than ten miles long, by an average width of half a mile, empties itself by the Devil's creek or Minnewanka River, into the Cascade River. There are also the Vermillion Lake and other smaller bodies of water connected with the Bow River. Near the northeast end of the park the Ghost River crosses it with an easterly course of about twelve miles, and its south branch is also partly within the reserve where it takes its rise. Thus the forests which cover a large portion of the area are well situated for preserving the flow of these important headwaters. The preservation of these forests from fire is a remarkable feature in the history of this reservation. Mr. Geo. Stewart, D.L.S., the superintendent, in his yearly reports, repeatedly mentions the fact that forest fires outside the park have not spread within it, which he attributes to two reasons, the clearing away of dead trees, and the existence of fire breaks formed by the roads that have been opened to the different points of interest. This is an indication of the means by which the danger of the destruction of our forests by fire may be minimized. There has also been considerable planting of forest trees. The hot springs, the beautiful scenery and the many objects of interest, attract great numbers of visitors, besides the many invalids seeking it as a sanitarium.

In October, 1886, an Order in Council was passed, setting apart four additional mountain parks, or reservations, in the Rocky Mountains, as follows:—

1. A park at Mount Stephen, including the country surrounding the base of the mountain and adjacent picturesque points.
2. A reservation in the vicinity of the mountain known as Mount Sir Donald, taking in the loop of the railway and adjacent territory.
3. A sufficient area in the Eagle Pass to include Griffin and Three Valley Lakes, and adjoining points of interest.
4. The amphitheatre at the summit of the Selkirk Mountains.

These reservations all contain extensive forests protecting the headwaters of important rivers.