

Forestry.

BY E. F. STEPHENSON.

Mr. President and Gentlemen : I am much pleased at receiving your invitation to read a paper on "Forestry" at your annual meeting, and, while appreciating the compliment you have paid me, I feel there are some aspects of this important subject which could be more ably dealt with by other members of this Society. If, however, any effort of mine will conduce to awaken a wider interest in forestry and stimulate the public to a study of the subject and appreciation of its great importance, it will be another proof of the benefit arising out of this organization.

The government, fully recognizing their responsibility to the public, have taken the initiative in the protection of our forests ; but while the general public remain indifferent to the subject and fail to appreciate its importance, any regulations which the government may make for the conservation and maintenance of the timber supply, must, in the nature of things, fail of its intention. It is to this aspect of the question, I suppose, that the efforts of the Society are to be directed.

It may not be out of place, however, to state briefly what has already been done by the government in the direction named. All lands valuable for timber are being reserved from sale and settlement ; and where timber grows in heavy belts, such as in the Riding Mountains, the Turtle Mountains, the Moose Mountain and the belt of timber known as the "Spruce Wood," South of Carberry, permanent timber reserves have been established. The area comprised within the reserves selected is upwards of 1,500,000 acres. They are in charge of competent bush rangers, who will shortly be engaged in laying out a system of fire guards, to be cut out during the coming spring and summer. Nature has made it