

### THE FOREST FIRES.

By Arthur Guiterman, in *Life*.

Is this the Forest Primeval?—that redolent, hallowed cathedral  
Lifted by Nature to God, the solace and joy of His creatures.  
Health-giving, tranquil and strong, the source of beneficent waters,  
Wooing the quickening rains, guarding the bountiful wheat-lands?  
This was the Forest Primeval;—this roaring, devouring furnace  
Billowed and sheeted with flame, a pitiless, raging inferno.  
See! how the sentinel pines go down, while the red-hearted cyclone  
Greeditly sweeps on the settlements, whirling in panic before it  
Caribou, timber-wolves, deer, snorting and plunging and bounding  
Mingled with cattle and men, poured through the streets, where the houses  
Melt in the fury!—And now, nothing remains but the timbers  
Desolate, blackened and charred, heaped over smoldering bodies.  
There let the fire-weed grow, dropping memorial blossoms.  
  
Only a camp-fire brand,—only a spark from an engine,  
One of the myriads blown daily and nightly at random—  
Such was the procreant seed. Come, let us thresh out the harvest.

### A GREAT CANADIAN SURVEYOR.

Toronto Star.

Alexander Niven, who died in Toronto on May 7, at the age of 75, was one of the remarkable figures of this Province. His was a life of strenuous endeavor. Since 1858 he ran survey lines into the Ontario bush like testers into a cheese. North and south, as meridians, east and west, as base lines, his narrow laneways in the forest may be seen throughout New Ontario to-day, some of them overgrown again, but all of them true as the stars and the theodolite and higher mathematics could make them. He was the first surveyor to run a line to James Bay.

The winter of 1862 was spent in surveying townships in Manitoulin. The next 45 years, with scarcely a break, were spent by Mr. Niven in the service of the Government. In 1883, he surveyed the township of Widdifield, where North Bay now stands.

Later in the same season, he ran the meridian north to Lake Timiskaming, where Haileybury stands to-day. He outlined townships at the foot of Lake Timagami, in the winter of 1884, and dur-

ing the next two years outlined the clay belt from present-day Haileybury as far north as Englehart, where it stands to-day. In 1890 he ran the boundary between Rainy River and Thunder Bay through that dense tangle of spruce and jack pine, and in the next three years outlined the townships north of Rainy Lake, Lake of the Woods, and as far north as Superior Junction as known to-day.

In 1896 he began the survey of the north and south line forming the boundary between the districts of Thunder Bay and Algoma, and in two years he ran that out to James Bay. In 1902 Mr. Niven outlined the Timagami Forest Reserve. Many of the lakes and rivers in the north country were first made known and placed on the map through his exploration lines, notably the Little Abitibi River. He was the first explorer to cross the muskeg country of the lower Albany overland.

### BEATITUDES OF TREE, SHRUB AND BUSH.

(C. Roscoe Brown, in *Saskatoon Phoenix*.)

Blessed is the man who appreciates the value of trees, shrubs and bush fruits; for his home shall become a place of shelter from the storm, with bowers of beauty, and fruit in due season.

Blessed is he who deplores the fact that he has not already made a beginning in growing trees, shrubs and small fruits; for he shall yet find comfort for himself and his children if he goes to work now.

Blessed is he who, living on the bleak prairie, hungers for a beautiful sheltered dwelling place; for he shall have it if he goes about it aright.

Blessed is he who thinks of the welfare of his wife and children, who provides a shelter for both man and beast; for he shall obtain mercy.

Blessed is he who is pure in heart; for he shall see God in tree and shrub and flower—yea, verily, he shall become like the tree spoken of by the psalmist, bringing forth his fruit in his season, his leaf also shall not wither and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Blessed is the man who is adversely criticised for well-doing; for he, if he perseveres, shall live to see others following where he leads; he shall live to see a treeless prairie become dotted with groves—oases of refuge and delight in a wind-swept plain.