

only redeeming feature of a forest fire from a mining point of view is that it clears away the brush and timber and thus gives greater opportunity for the prospector to search for and follow up exposed veins of mineral. Otherwise the forest fire apparently misses any law of compensation. It is a dead loss in every way, doing no good to anyone and very great harm. The sight, too, of a grand old tree that after perhaps a century has reached its maturity standing a blackened ruin of stump some six or eight feet in diameter—and simply because John Smith forgot to put out his campfire before leaving for parts unknown—is a sorry sight indeed.

I noticed last spring that the mountain opposite us was gradually becoming clothed with a low brush of young trees. But how many years will it take to restore that mountain-side to its former forest glory? and how many years will it require to produce a tree comparable in girth and height to those grand old cedars whose huge blackened and charred stumps are crowded along the road?

### EASTERN FORESTERS.

#### What University of New Brunswick Men are Doing.

Mr. R. B. Miller, Professor of Forestry in the University of New Brunswick, writes in reply to a letter of the editor of *The Canadian Forestry Journal* that the work of the academic year has concluded most satisfactorily and that the prospects are very bright. He encloses the following from one of the daily papers of Fredericton:—

The foresters in the University of New Brunswick are getting positions for the summer and it is hoped the majority will be placed before Encaenia or shortly afterwards at least. Of the seniors, K. R. Machum takes a position with the C. P. R. Forestry Branch, and H. B. Murray is the only man to go to British Columbia under H. R. MacMillan, Chief Forester. R. K. Shives will go to Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, and in his party as assistant will be H. S. Laughlin, of the junior class. G. P. Melrose of the same class is also with the Dominion Forestry Branch as well as A. M. Gunter and Don A. McDonald. The two latter will be assigned to the Dominion Experimental Farm where they will make studies of growth in the arboretum. Jack Hipwell, Harry Holman, Frank McGibbon and Cortland Otty, the latter an engineer with some forestry experience, have received positions with the C. P. R.

Forestry Branch, at Calgary, Alberta. All of these are sophmores. C. L. Armstrong and C. R. Townsend of the freshmen have been placed, as well as Sam Weston, '14, with Mr. Reginald R. Bailey, Plaster Rock and will be on the Tobique with Foster Howe and H. C. Belyea, U. N. B. men engaged in cruising for the New Brunswick Land Co. On account of other men getting ready for examinations, five U. N. B. men, some of them foresters, were sent to Nova Scotia for the C. P. R. K. Vavasour, R. D. Jago, A. M. Brewer, Guy Horncastle, and C. E. Maimann, left here April 15th.

The Forestry Department at the U.N.B. is steadily growing in popularity and the usefulness of this science is becoming more generally recognized. The number of students in forestry it is expected will be largely increased next year.

### HOW TO PREVENT FLOODS.

The floods which swept through the middle western states were more destructive this year than ever before. Not even the awful Johnstown flood can be said to parallel in loss of life and property the terrible disasters which recently took place. The New York 'Outlook' in 'A Poll of the Press' on the subject of flood prevention in the light of recent experiences returns a verdict which should make forest conservationists more zealous than ever for their cause. The 'Outlook' gives first place to the opinion expressed by the Buffalo 'News.'

Nothing is more familiar in the experience of mankind than that cutting down the forests to an unreasonable extent invariably leads to floods and to erosion of soil, and, generally speaking, to enormous damage to farming country as well as to cities and villages that lie in the path of streams.

Hardly any other lesson in our human experience is more deeply and bitterly written than that of the folly of neglect to preserve a certain proportion of forest lands with a view to security of inhabitants.

Some marvel that in the generations past, say in the early days of the settlement of the Central West, as well as of the eastern part of the United States, there were no such disastrous floods as we have to-day, but it is all accounted for by having the land so cleared that as soon as rain falls or snow melts it immediately goes down grade with the utmost speed into creeks and rivers and begins its work of destruction.