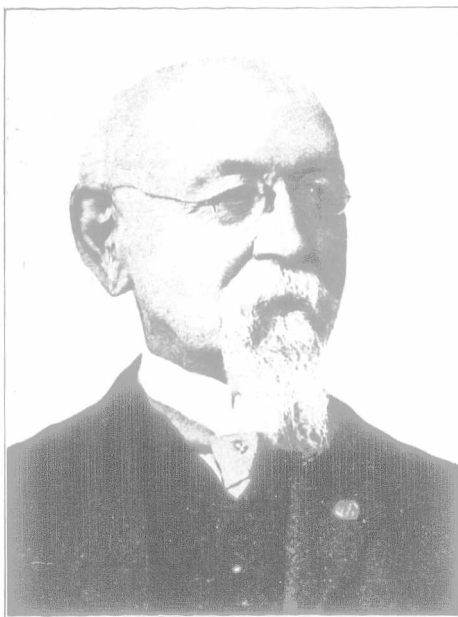


transportation, facilities east, west and south the lumbermen of this area have built up a substantial trade in the prairie provinces. The spruce is of the very best quality, and for the purposes of the settler much more easily adapted to construction, as there is little chance of the spruce splitting when nails are driven through it, as is the case with some of the western species.

Federal Regulations.

The Dominion Government has jurisdiction over the lands in the central western provinces and the Railway Belt of British Columbia. Parcels of timber which the government wishes to dispose of are duly surveyed and divided into berths of an area not exceeding 25 square miles. These are cruised and the licenses sold at auction at the office of the Dominion Timber Agent for the district in which the berths are situated, after an upset price has been fixed by the Minister. The licenses are for one year only, and are renewable from year to year, while there is timber of sufficient quantity and quality on the berth to be commercially valuable. In this con-



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nection the Minister of the Interior has the privilege of withdrawing from a license such lands as he deems unfit for timber production and fit for settlement. Timber berths cannot be transferred without consent of the Minister, and \$1 per square mile is charged for transferring. A diameter limit of 10 inches is imposed, and the licensee is required to dispose of tops, branches and debris in such a way as to prevent as far as possible the danger of fire. One half of the cost incurred by the Crown in guarding the timber from fire is borne by the licensee. The rental charged is \$5 a square mile in all lands except those west of Yale in British Columbia, where it is 5 cents an acre, and the licensee pays on timber for sawn lumber 50 cents per thousand feet board measure, and 25 cents per cord on shingle bolts. All licensees must take oath as to the amount of lumber cut by themselves and assistants each season. In Manitoba Saskatchewan and Alberta the Minister of the Interior may grant permits to owners of mills to cut timber over a definitely described tract of land, not over one square mile in extent on payment of \$100 per square mile in addition to all the dues.

Manitoba's Industries.

Manitoba's lumbering industry has been steadily growing under increased demand from the prairie market, and with the development of modern machinery and the use of water powers. As observed above, the forest of

Manitoba reaches down fairly close to the southern boundary. The large lakes Winnipeg and Manitoba are surrounded with a growth which, according to Mr. R. H. Campbell, Dominion Director of Forestry, is due to yield at some future time a return quite as great as the product of agriculture. Taken in conjunction with the tremendous water-powers, the heavy growth of spruce, balsam and poplar will supply pulp mills forever with the best possible material. His Honor, Lieutenant Governor Cameron of Manitoba recently prognosticated that the province would be one of the foremost in the Dominion for lumber through the manufacture of boards pressed from pulp grown on Manitoba soils.

The trees of large dimensions have to a great extent been cut away, till the log run is sufficient to give such mills as those of the Singer Lumber Company at The Pas a cut of nearly 20 million annually. The Rat Portage Lumber Company and the Standard Lumber Company are both supposed to be cutting a couple of million each year.

Saskatchewan's Mills.

Saskatchewan has much better spruce than Manitoba, largely because the soil in the northern part of the province is much drier than that of Manitoba at a like latitude. Prince Albert is the centre of the lumbering industry. The combined output of about 100 million feet annually of the Prince Albert Lumber Company, Prince Albert, and the Big River Lumber Company, Big River, would equal the product of all other mills in the province. The latter mill was burned on June 14th last, with a loss of some \$500,000 largely covered by insurance, and the company, in which Mackenzie and Mann interests are said to have a large share, are rebuilding. The Red Deer Lumber Company, of Burrows, Sask., and the Saskatchewan Lumber Company at Crooked River, would claim nearly half of what the other mills produced. The Great West Lumber Company, with mills at Greenbush, have an estimated annual output of 10 million feet. Transportation is a heavy item in Saskatchewan, but the quality and quantity of the lumber produced enable the manufacturer to sell at a better profit than is possible in other districts where the amount and grade are low.

Alberta.

Alberta's mills are as close to the mountains as labor and transportation conditions will allow. There are a great number of small mills, portable and semi-portable, operating in the coulees of the foothills. The ranchers and townspeople drive twenty or thirty miles to receive the lumber so manufactured. Spruce and lodgepole pine are the principal species cut. The Lineham Lumber Company at High River, Alta., is one of the mills which has the advantages of a large stream and can adopt a large mill, with some seventy hands. The company produces something under 10 million feet. The Eau Claire and Bow River Lumber Company has a mill at Calgary is one of the city's growing industries. At Edmonton is the largest mill in the province, that of John Walter, Ltd. The firm employs in all some hundred and fifty men, and draw their supplies largely from the north and west.

In these three prairie provinces the Dominion Government has complete jurisdiction, and it is here that the reserve policy which has been developing for some years is gradually taking shape and making a success among the people. The idea in view is to preserve such areas as are fitted for agriculture for tree growth, and to organize them so as to keep fire out and give the young trees an opportunity, through natural reproduction, to gain merchantable size. So-called working "plans" under which the forest is controlled so as to produce a revenue continuously are in operation on several of the reserves. These number in all 30 and embody 35,804.60 square miles. The largest reserve of all is that on the eastern slope of the Rockies, set apart mainly because of the