

The Lesser Slave Forest Reserve.—This is a tract lying to the south and west of Lesser Slave lake and east of the trail leading from Edson on the Grand Trunk Pacific railway to the Peace River district, the south boundary being the Athabasca river. This tract rises to a height of between 3,000 and 4,000 feet and there is a stand of spruce and pine scattered all over it. It is only in portions of it, however, that the stand is mature and heavy, but the indications are that the growth of timber on this tract would be fairly rapid, so that it could be considered as a very suitable tract for timber reproduction. Its elevation and the broken nature of the country make it unsuitable for agriculture. It could form one of the finest pulpwood forests in the whole of the West, and would probably equal that in any district in Canada. The great problem at the present time is its protection from fire. It is rather interesting to note that it is just at this point that the jack pine of the East begins to be replaced by the jack pine of the West, commonly known as the lodgepole pine. Both of these trees are found on this reserve. The area is 5,023 square miles.

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

In the Railway Belt in the Province of British Columbia, which is under Dominion jurisdiction, there is an extensive tract from about Notch Hill to North Bend, a distance of some 170 miles, which has such a small precipitation that irrigation is required for successful agriculture. The protection of the watershed in this district is, therefore, of great importance and the forested mountain tops are of greater importance almost, than in districts where the supply of water is not such a pressing question. The Thompson and Fraser rivers run through this tract but in such low valleys that the use of their waters for irrigation is not very feasible. As a consequence irrigation in the vicinity of Kamloops and the other towns in the district is carried on from the small streams which head in the mountains within the Railway Belt. Several small reserves have already been established by statute, and the examination of the lands has been pushed on during the last few years in order to determine finally what lands are absolutely non-agricultural, and should be included in forest reserves.

In consequence of this examination considerable additions to the reserves have been recommended. The tops of the mountains are generally well wooded with balsam fir, Douglas fir, spruce and lodgepole pine, and on the lower portions of the hills the western yellow pine is found in scattered stands. The timber on these reserves will be of great value, but their value as reservoirs for water supply is perhaps the greatest at the present moment, as the necessity for water is more pressing than any other in that district and more necessary for the