

in 1904, and ascribes the failure mainly to the bare, unprotected state of the meadows and grain fields. The woods have been cut away to such an extent that the fields are exposed to the full force of the sun and of every wind that blows, and the question is asked whether or not the failure of the past year is not in the main to be found in this very fact, that the unprotected lands were dried by the spring and early summer winds. One farmer told Mr. Warburton that the only good field of hay he had was one at the back of his farm which was well sheltered by woods and that those not sheltered had been almost complete failures.

Though the subject requires fuller investigation the influence of sheltering trees on moisture conditions are very noticeable. To quote but one instance of many recently cited in Forestry and Irrigation, from the results of experiments made by the Agricultural Experimental Stations in Wisconsin in 1894: to the leeward of a piece of black oak woods, of an average height of 15 to 25 feet, the results showed an evaporation at one foot above the surface of the ground varying from 11.1 cubic centimetres at twenty feet from the grove to 18.5 cubic centimetres at 300 feet, beyond which distance the amount remained constant. The observations were made during an hour of sunshine in the middle of the day. Thus at 300 feet the evaporation was 66 per cent. greater than at 20 feet.

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Mr. T. M. Robinson writes from Gravenhurst, Ontario, as follows:—

“There are millions of acres in Muskoka and this back country that are useless for agriculture, over which second growth timber is asserting itself, and which would in a few years, if suitably protected, prove to be of great value to the country. The protection of the new growth of trees is a duty devolving upon not only the legislators of Canada, but also upon the present generation of Canadians, who have reaped such a large harvest from the woods of their country.

“It is safe to say that in the forty years that I have known Muskoka, the white pine has receded two hundred miles, with practically no effort to protect the second growth. I am pleased to