



Where the Forestry Convention will be Held—The Winnipeg Industrial Bureau.

Should New Brunswick Forests Be Thinned.

John D. Howe, St. John, N.B.

In a paper read before the New Brunswick Natural History Society, Mr. John D. Howe, of St. John, N.B., who has for many years taken an active interest in forestry, urged the making of an experiment in 'thinning' to promote growth in the 'thicket' spruce forests of that Province.

Mr. Howe recalled in opening a discussion at the first meeting of the Canadian Forestry Association in 1900, between Sir Henri Joly de Lotbiniere, Dr. Robert Bell, Dr. Wm. Saunders, Hon. W. D. Perley, Mr. Wm. Little and Sir William Hingston. Sir Henri Joly and Sir Wm. Hingston contended that the estimates placed on the growth of spruce were too high, the former saying that in his experience he had not found a more favorable average than one inch in diameter in five or six years. It was also pointed out that while old field spruce grew rapidly they branched out

from the bottom and were therefore largely useless as timber trees. Mr. Little pointed out that it was the rate of growth of the whole forest, not of a single tree growing in a garden that was important, and Sir Wm. Hingston said that even in the same acre of forest some trees would grow as much in three years as others in twelve years.

Mr. Howe said he had measured large quantities of spruce, and though people argued that the growth, owing to greater humidity, was greater in New Brunswick than in Quebec, he had not found the average greater than Sir Henri Joly had stated.

This examination disclosed that trees grow, not regularly, but fitfully. Some trees would grow rapidly for twenty years and then scarcely make any progress for another twenty years, and then suddenly break into vigorous growth again, putting on as much wood in two years as they