

would receive through their rivers. Cultivation of the soil on the prairies had already increased its capacity for retaining moisture.

In answer to a question from Mr. H. M. Price, Prof. Macoun explained his theory of the trees increasing the supply of moisture through cooling the atmosphere and thus bringing about precipitation.

Dr. Saunders also spoke of the importance of preserving the forest referred to. He referred also to the efforts being made in the direction of irrigating lands, and the establishment of an experimental farm in southwest Alberta.

Dr. R. Bell spoke in regard to the influence of the forests on rainfall, supporting Prof. Macoun's theory. He illustrated his point by references to the flow of the Ottawa River and of other rivers flowing north from the Height of Land.

Mr. Stewart, after a brief reference to the influence of the forests on the climate, referred to the term "forest reserve" and its meaning. The purpose of setting aside a reserve was not to retain the timber uncut, but to so manage the forest that it would yield a permanent supply.

An interesting discussion on the death of ash trees throughout Quebec, and also to some extent in Ontario, and also on the effects of the larch sawfly was participated in by Mr. E. G. Joly de Lotbiniere, Rev. T. W. Fyles, Mr. H. M. Price, Prof. John Macoun, Dr. Saunders, Mr. Hiram Robinson, Mr. Thos. Southworth and Mr. W. J. C. Hall. The death of the ash trees in Quebec was generally attributed to a succession of drougthy years. The sawfly was reported to be still active in certain sections, as in the Abitibi country. It was noted that some of the older larch which had been severely attacked by the sawfly and had been for some time apparently dead, had survived and were again putting forth leaves.

Mr. Hall informed the meeting that the Quebec Government was about to set aside, as a forest reserve, all the country in the Ottawa Valley on the Quebec side, outside of the boundaries of the townships already surveyed, extending from the eastern watershed of the Riviere du Lievre to the Ontario boundary line.

Mr. Lovett urged the necessity of tax exemption on woodlands and of reforestation denuded land. He suggested using prison labor for the planting on the denuded land.

Mr. W. B. Snowball spoke of the importance of the forests to New Brunswick. He cited from personal experience, the Baie du Vin as a stream whose flow had greatly decreased as the result of the cutting of the forests at its head-waters.

#### THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

Thursday afternoon's session opened at 2.30 p.m., the President, Mr. E. Stewart, in the chair.