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PROBLEMS CONCERNING FOREST PRESERVATION IN NEW ONTARIO

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Valuable Suggestions from a Resident who is in Close Touch with the Situation.—Some Advantages of Ontario's New Lands Open for Settlement

I N travelling from Montreal to Winnipeg by rail one is appalled at the terrible loss the country has sustained by the destruction of such vast areas of timber trees. What applies to the lands adjoining the track does equally so to more remote regions. An enormous amount of national assets have been wiped out. That some of this was accidental is undoubted, but a great deal has been caused by what I can only call criminal negligence and no small portion by wilful burning. I know of men who simply cannot resist putting a match to a dry brush pile. They do not mean to try and fire the district—"it may run a bit but that won't hurt anyone."

THE FIRE FIEND.

Not a season opens but I think "is all the labors expended on my land to preserve the choicest trees and beautify the place going to end in smoke?" Every year it becomes safer and if I can keep back the fire-fiend a little longer my place may be out of danger. But not so the distant hills and intersecting valleys. They will be ruined in their turn; not by the advance of civilization and the clearing of the land to dot it over with homesteads, but by wanton firing of land not properly cleared up or at seasons of exceptional dryness. If the land is not worth the extra

right to let a fire get beyond control even on their own land if it may become a public danger and must be brought to realize that Crown lands are a national asset and as such to be jealously guarded by all and not as at present treated as no man's land.

A SUGGESTED REMEDY.

Time heals most things and it will in the far future replace the timber losses if it gets the chance. But those losses will not stop unless two things are done: The wanton fires must be severely dealt with and the people as a body must be brought to realize that there is no advantage in burning more acres than can be cleared up in 10 years or perhaps then they are ever

the advantages and pleasure to be derived from them. Many magnify the labor of collecting and planting out a few thousand trees. Others do not see why they should trouble over that which will not reach maturity for many years.

OUR NATIONAL OBLIGATIONS.

If we have benefited by the acts of those who have gone before us, how shall we exempt our-



A Picturesque Setting for a Poultry House

The illustration shows a heavy belt of trees that have been preserved for protection of the buildings and gardens on the farm in New Ontario owned and worked by A. Edge-de-Hurst.

likely to get under cultivation, and also that well grown trees are a source of endless pleasure. A few years back the idea of my leaving many trees when clearing around the house was ridiculed, but to-day it is "nicely grown tree there."

In the battle to exist nowadays it is no good expecting everyone to take the same keen interest in forestry that some take; yet all can and must do their little bit in this imperative work.

Canada has been deforested. Nature will do her share to afforest her again in the out-of-the-way parts, but the hand of man has a great work ahead. Gifted as we are with some of the most useful and ornamental trees and shrubs, some simple but effectual means are surely devisable to bring home to settlers—more especially in the newly settled sections of the country—



A Scene Typical of Western Ontario

The black spruce, poplar, birch and jack pine, as seen in the illustration, afford shelter, and add much to the beauty of the surroundings. A newly planted hedge of white spruce is seen in the foreground.

seives from doing something, the full value of which will be for future generations. There is generally wanting in Canada that affection for the land that is so conspicuous a feature of Old Country life. Many of the people here have developed a nomadic nature. If they get a good farm and are doing well, the offer of a few dollars more than they gave will buy them out. This spirit does not conduce to the furtherance of our afforesting ideas. When we have banished the thought of the almighty dollar long enough to plant some shelter belts, hedges and specimen trees, when we have tended them a few years and they are beginning to amply repay our trouble, we become absorbed in the word "Home."

WHAT CAN BE DONE WITH TREES.

It is not realized by some persons what can be done with trees when given sufficient light and air. What one has been brought to call scrub takes a new form. We in the north have not the same variety of trees as are to be found further south, yet what endless capabilities exist for white, black and balsam spruce, larch, birch, white cedar, red and white pine and mountain ash. The prairie provinces look to us to embellish their treeless expanses—yet the forests of Ontario are being wrecked. Owing to the nature of the soil in many sections of New Ontario, it is preferable to bring under cultivation the flattest and lowestlands, the less desirable being left under forest growth. A much closer inspection of newly settled land is necessary. It is sugges-



An Example of Changed Conditions

A lone pine left to be the future glory of a proposed paddock. The three photographs reproduced on this page were taken at Dennyhurst, the residence of the writer of the adjoining article.

trouble entailed, let those who cannot show regard for the national rights and those of their neighbors leave it alone for better men.

The laws for the preservation of the forests are good enough, but we want men capable of enforcing those laws without fear or favor. Settlers must be made to know that they have no