

on the cleared land. The prairie should have been placed near the Atlantic and the woodland in the Northwest. Arranged as it was with the forest on the land that was close to the market for its products, forest destruction was at first a necessity and later became a habit. Fire, the good servant in clearing the land, ran rampant, carrying forest destruction far beyond the necessities of the people.

The earliest settlers coming from Europe were used to forest conservation. They had practised it in the countries from which they came. Forest destruction was to them a new thing; but the forests were so vast that they thought there never could be a scarcity of wood, and they reasoned that the more the forest was destroyed the more the agricultural interests of the country would be advanced. But the modern settler sees the forest in a different light, especially so in the great Northwest, where, on the wide prairie, wood is a luxury. To him forest conservation is the necessity, not forest destruction. He has no delight in the devastation of the woods by fire, and he hails with hope legislation and management tending to improve the condition of the forest. He sees clearly that his comfort and his agricultural interests are closely dependent upon a plentiful supply of wood.

The country is so vast and the demand for wood so great that it is a tremendous problem to so manage the forests that this demand may be met continuously. Hope seems to lie in the creation of forest reserves, and the policy of setting aside land to be used as forest reserves is now pretty well established by the Dominion Government.

The Dominion Forest Reserves are intended to preserve and produce a perpetual supply of timber for the people of the prairie, the homesteader's needs being considered of first importance. They are not intended to furnish wood for the lumber trade. Hence the policy of the reserves is favorable to small mills rather than to large ones which need large tracts of forest, and manufacture lumber beyond the needs of the settlers.

Let us consider some of the various purposes that forests subserve. In the first place, we need them to supply us with wood, and wood we must have to cook our food; to build and furnish our houses, our railroads, our steamships; to erect our telegraph and telephone lines; to mine our metals and our coal, which takes no small amount of wood; to supply us with paper, charcoal, tan-bark, dynamite, boxes, tools, pails, matches, and many innumerable articles.

On going from a forested country to a prairie, one realizes the importance, convenience and cheapness of wood to a home. To be sure, coal and gas may be used for fuel, and brick, stone, cement and iron for building; but wood is still largely used