

forests should be placed under license as it is the surest means of protecting them against devastation and robbery. Besides this, the proximity of settlers clearings, and the carelessness of travellers are sources of constant danger; and enormous tracts are annually consumed by fire, which is the great devastator of our forests. For this reason the Government is interested in increasing every year the number of lumber merchants. At the high price which the limits have reached, and the fact that they are obliged to pay a rent of \$3 per mile, the merchants are interested more than anyone else in the preservation of their limits, and the deeper they are interested, the better will it be for the province.

OTHER OPINIONS.

Provided we are vigilant in guarding our forests; and strictly enforce the present regulations regarding the diameter of the wood which is cut, and taking into account also the natural growth of the forests, we may rely upon a perpetual supply.

The regulations at present in force date from the 1st of June, 1901. The 12th clause reads as follows:

12. Licensees are forbidden to cut on Crown lands, pine trees measuring less than 12 inches in diameter, spruce trees measuring less than 11 inches in diameter and trees of other descriptions measuring less than 9 inches diameter, at the stump; but they are permitted to cut black spruce, balsam, poplar, hemlock and other small timber intended for the manufacture of paper pulp at a diameter of 7 inches at the stump.

This regulation has been adopted to further the development of the pulp industry, without hindering the preservation of forests. The adoption of this regulation has received the approbation of all the limit holders, who are the most interested in the duration of our forests, as the following document shows: