

number of miles which any one concern may purchase be unlimited no injustice will be done the largest operators."

"Forest Reserves" was the title of a paper by Roland D. Craig, Inspector of Dominion Forest Reserves, who said:

"For several years the Dominion Government has withheld portions of its timber land from settlement, but it was not until the passing of the Forest Reserves Act last Session, that they were definitely and permanently set aside for forest purposes. These Dominion forest and game reserves are situated in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and in the Railway Belt in British Columbia, and cover in all about five and a half million acres.

The objects in setting aside these reserves are to protect and improve the forests for the purpose of maintaining a permanent supply of timber, to maintain conditions favorable to a continuous water supply, to protect the animals, fish and birds within the reserves, and to ameliorate the climate.

The lands so reserved are withdrawn from sale, settlement, occupancy or other trespass, which may interfere with the objects of the reserves.

It is not, however, the purpose to prevent the use of timber which is produced, but its exploitation shall be under the direction of the Superintendent of Forestry, and conducted in such a way that the perpetuation of the forest shall be assured.

The reservation of the land for forest purposes, does not in any way interfere with the development of mines within their boundaries, but on the contrary, the supply of timber being produced in the vicinity will greatly facilitate mining operations.

The value of maintaining forests at the headquarters of streams used for irrigation and water power is most important, and this is the chief object of those reserves which have already been set aside in British Columbia.

It is absolutely necessary, if the country in the interior of British Columbia and on the east slope of the Rocky Mountains, is to develop along agricultural lines, that a forest cover may be maintained on the watersheds to protect and regulate the streams which will bring wealth and prosperity to an otherwise unproductive waste. If the forests are removed it will cost millions of dollars to build dams and reservoirs to control the spring freshets and conserve the water for the use of the crops, and in the end they will not be so effective as a good forest cover.

Not least among the objects of these reserves is the preservation of game in the forests and the fish in the waters within the reserves. By maintaining the forests about the headwaters of the streams, the spawning beds of the salmon and other fish will be protected. It is lamentable to see the rapidity with which