

ONTARIO FORESTS.

The annual report of the Commissioner of Crown Lands of Ontario for the year 1900 states that the revenue from woods and forests during the year was \$1,276,376.48. Of this \$636,464.54 was on account of bonuses, \$61,704.70 on account of ground rents, and \$1,886.25 on account of transfer fees, leaving the net revenue from timber dues \$576,320.99. The prosperous condition of the lumber business and the success of the manufacturing clause affecting pine saw logs is referred to.

The activity in the demands for woods suitable for the making of pulp and paper, the report states, has been undiminished. The Sault Ste. Marie Pulp and Paper Company have operated their mechanical pulp mill continuously throughout the year, and have also erected a sulphite mill of large capacity. Work at the Sturgeon Falls mill has been suspended through litigation respecting this property. Since the last report three new agreements have been entered into by the Government and ratified by the Legislature for the erection of paper and pulp mills, namely, with the Spanish River Pulp and Paper Company, the Blanche River Pulp and Paper Company, and the Nepigon Pulp and Paper Company. The Spanish River company have prepared elaborate plans for the establishment of their industry, and are proceeding with the erection of

dams, mills, etc. The other two companies, namely, the Blanche River and the Nepigon, have not yet succeeded in settling matters in connection with the water powers for their proposed mills.

The explorations in the country north of the height of land have revealed the fact that this province has almost boundless resources in pulp woods, and with the higher prices and greater demand for this class of raw material, we may confidently look for a great expansion in the pulp and paper industry in the not distant future.

Regulations have been passed prohibiting the export of spruce pulp wood cut on lands of the Crown, as well as of hemlock bark to be used for tanning purposes, the object being, as in the case of pine sawlogs, to realize for the province all the benefits arising from the utilization of these natural resources in our own country.

FIRE RANGING.

The following reference is made to the fire ranging system as now in vogue:

The number of licensees who had firerangers

der Bay and Rainy River, however, the summer was a particularly dry one, and some serious fires occurred, especially on limits in Algoma and Rainy River. In the township of Dana, on the Sturgeon River, owned by the Crown, a fire broke out in June. The Department's rangers from Temagaming hurried to the scene and succeeded in confining the fire to some lots in the first concession. A good deal of timber was damaged, and after inspection by woodrangers of the Department it was decided to dispose of the tim-

ber standing on lots 1 to 5 in the first concession, so that its value might be realized to the Province.

At the last session of the Legislature the fireranging system was put upon a statutory basis, and whereas in the past the employment of firerangers was merely optional on the part of limit owners, the Department has now authority to place men on licensed territory where there may be danger from fire, and charge half the cost of the same to the lumberman. This was undoubtedly a proper step, as it was manifestly unfair that a licensee who had protected his limits year after year by the employment of rangers should be exposed to loss from fire running over from the limit of his neighbor who employed no rangers.

It has been the practice of the Department to keep close watch on the fireranging system, in order to see that it is



LUMBER SCENES—VICTORIA LUMBER AND MANUFACTURING COMPANY, CHEMAINUS, B.C.

on their limits last season was 79, and the number of rangers employed on licensed lands was 185. There were also 12 rangers employed on Crown lands in the Temagaming country (which is a favorite resort for tourists) and in the Wapiti country and the district of Rainy River, where prospectors have gone in. The total cost of the service to the Department was \$26,985.43.

In the Ottawa country and in the districts of Muskoka, Parry Sound and Nipissing, the season was comparatively wet and there were no large fires. In the districts of Algoma, Thun-

being properly carried out, and to strengthen it from time to time where it may be weak. In order to get definite information upon the working of the system, it has been customary every two or three years to send out a circular to all those licensees who have employed firerangers, asking them a series of questions as to the working of the system, and what suggestions they have to offer in the direction of improving it. This year circulars were sent out to those licensees who have employed firerangers during last summer, and replies have been