

REVIEWS.

Report of the Dominion Superintendent of Forestry, 1904.

pp. 28.

The succeeding reports of the Dominion Forestry Branch tell a story of steady progress. The distribution of trees to farmers in the West reached the number of 1,800,000, bringing up the total distribution to 3,242,750, while the stock in the nurseries is 4,229,557. The satisfactory character of the work done in the setting out of these trees is shown in the fact that the percentage of success is from 80 to 95 per cent. Two special phases of forestry work of the utmost importance to Canada are emphasized by Mr. Stewart in the following paragraphs, which are well worthy of quotation:—

“The early history of Canada is much enlivened by the accounts of the journeys of the pioneer explorer into hitherto unknown regions. The explorer and the missionary during the French regime went hand in hand, and their names are written far beyond where the settler of to-day has yet gone, but private exploration is a thing of the past. Men to-day are too busily engaged in personal advancement to permit of the gratification of a spirit of adventure if such should exist, and the result is that we know practically as little of the heritage we possess beyond the settled districts as we do of Africa or Australia. It is true that the Geological Survey has done all that could be expected of it with the limited means at its disposal, but it seems to me that the day has now come when the people of the country should have the means of knowing the character and natural resources of their own unoccupied possessions. The government should know in advance of settlement the character of the unsettled districts, so as to direct immigration aright; so that mineral lands might be set aside as such; agricultural land devoted to the agriculturist, and land unsuited for agriculture but on which timber is growing reserved permanently for timber.”