

or are, at least, much better adapted to being used for wood crops than for other crops. Their present condition is that they are lying almost wholly unproductive and their owners have neither the knowledge of how to again restore them to production by afforestation, nor the capital with which to do it. Nor would they have the power to protect the growing crop were both the skill and capital available to make the start.

The districts of Muskoka, Haliburton and others furnish striking examples of the results of throwing open for settlement territory largely unadapted for agriculture. The settlers upon many of the lots being unable to live solely by cultivating their land have in many cases, when the timber has been removed, abandoned their farms. Much of this land, if managed upon forestry principles, would continue a permanent source of wealth; but under the present system it is simply despoiled of its growth and partly farmed under very disadvantageous conditions, and partly allowed to remain waste, the second growth not being protected. A large proportion of the lots after being denuded of saleable timber are of so little value that the owners allow them to be sold for municipal taxes, and are frequently bought in by the municipalities. Were the townships permitted to retain the ownership of the lots which thus fall into their hands, the nucleus might in this way be established of a system of municipal forest reserves, which would not only supply the public requirements for timber for bridges, culverts, piles and other construction works, but would in time become a considerable source of revenue. As the law stands, however, municipalities can only buy lots offered at tax sales on the condition that they are re-sold within seven years, so that the only result is that the old chaotic and wasteful process of exploitation is again put into operation.

A suggestion is made that in the opening up of new districts, before any new township is thrown open for settlement, the surveyors be instructed to report as to rough and non-agricultural land embraced within its boundaries, with a view to withdrawing such areas from settlement and retaining them as timber reserves.

The question of municipal reserves is certainly one well worthy of consideration. In Germany the communal forests make many of the towns which are fortunate enough to own them, independent of taxation altogether. When money is required for any purpose the town forest is ready to supply the need, and in some cases instead of taxation there is a bonus for the citizens.

Mr. Nash also contributes a paper on the farm wood lot, so that the whole question of forestry in Ontario is fully covered in the report. One of the greatest conveniences a farmer can