

by digging with shovels, and near swampy places where water was available it was made use of.

In the Turtle Mountain District the fires have been kept out of the reserve, with one exception which burned over a section; but this has only been accomplished by hard work and constant watching. Many of these fires come across the boundary to the south, where the settlers are not always as careful as they might be in setting them out, and are the despair of the forest ranger. The Indians also occasionally slip across the border and start a little fire to assist them in their hunting operations, but after the ranger has "chased them over into Dakota," his authority ceases, and he is left to rage impotently along the invisible but powerful barrier which stands between him and his tormentors.

With the advent of wet weather in the beginning of June it has been found possible to withdraw the fire rangers, and there will probably be no further danger till the fall.

The village of Cache Bay, near Sturgeon Falls, Ontario, has been burned out; the result, it is supposed, of forest fires which were raging in the neighborhood.

A fire has done considerable damage to timber limits at Kippewa, in the Province of Quebec. It began on the 30th June, its origin presumably being in a settlement a short distance back of Bas des Peres where settlers were clearing land by fire. The hot weather and strong wind raised apprehension of a serious fire, but the wind abated and blew back over the burned area. A big force of men fought the fire with water or by shovelling back earth on it, and were succeeding very well. There was also a fire at White River, on the Ontario side, which did considerable damage to a number of settlers.

Mr. N. McCuaig, General Superintendent of the Forest Protection Service for District No. 1, in the Province of Quebec, makes the following suggestion in regard to the equipment of fire rangers:—

"A soldier on the battle-field without his rifle and ammunition is of very little account, and largely similarly situated is the best Fire Ranger, far away from help in the forests, face to face with his enemy—the fire—without any implements. Here are the articles that are usually employed in fighting fires, viz., spade, hoe and pail. There is little doubt if the Government offered a suitable reward to native mechanical ingenuity, a tool would be shortly forthcoming that would combine the spade and hoe in one implement effective and convenient for either purpose and not exceeding three and one-half pounds in weight. This, together with a rubber cloth pail, the whole at a trifle of expenditure, would constitute an equipment by which the ranger would be in a position at any moment to deal with a fire in its incipient or more advanced stage. A handle for such an implement need not be carried, as one could quickly be provided in the woods. The cost of such articles, including the leather belt, should not exceed three dollars per ranger, and it might cost less if the pail adopted should be a tin folding pail. I beg to call the immediate attention of the Government to the matter, in the confident belief that its adoption would be a wise, practical and profitable investment to help protect our forests from fire."

Sylvan Ontario: A Guide to our Native Trees and Shrubs, by W. H. Muldrew, B.A., D. Paed. Wm. Briggs, Toronto. 50c. and \$1.00.

This book has grown out of the efforts made by Dr. Muldrew to find some method to enable his pupils to identify

easily our native trees, with the object of arousing an interest in this important part of the Canadian flora. That the plan adopted has been worked out from actual experimentation with classes of pupils and has been found successful, is its best recommendation, and undoubtedly the method of identification by such a conspicuous and generally present feature as the leaves will be found much less difficult than the one based on the floral characteristics which are much less easy of recognition and are usually available for observation for only a very short period. Many students of Botany have practically overlooked the trees altogether, and such a work as "*Sylvan Ontario*" will serve a very useful purpose if it leads to a better knowledge of the trees which hold such a prominent place in this Canada of ours. This book is an index, not a treatise; but to anyone wishing to study our native trees we cannot do better than recommend obtaining a copy, always bearing in mind, as suggested by the author, that taken by itself it may prove as interesting as is usual with an index or dictionary, but that when read in connection with the living things which it introduces, there is reason to hope that it may happily combine instruction with recreation in a way not without interest to the thoughtful reader. The drawings which illustrate the leaves of the different trees and shrubs, and which have been made by the author from the originals, give that additional clearness by which accurate illustrations are always superior to word descriptions. While the index was primarily compiled for the Province of Ontario, its usefulness is by no means confined to that Province, and it should prove of great assistance in all of Eastern Canada and the neighboring States.

The neat and tasteful leather binding, tied with thongs, gives the book an attractive appearance, and the whole of the typographical work is clearly and carefully done.

CAMPING OUT.

C. A. B.

Four good brick or stone walls and a watertight roof are all capital things in their way—they come in handy when a winter blizzard or an equinoctial storm is raging, as well as during those other spells of bad weather which visit us at intervals throughout the year, but in sweet summer-time a city house is little better than a prison.

There is no better way of putting in a vacation than passing it in the woods. Health and strength go hand in hand beneath the trees. What could be jollier than to lie at night before a roaring fire of hardwood, the pure breath of heaven fanning one's cheek, and the stars twinkling in the dark vault overhead? The Arabs say days spent in the chase are not counted by Allah in the length of a man's life; it is a very pretty conceit, and perhaps not far from the truth after all.

Only a few years ago people were afraid to go camping, dreading all sorts of evils; many dire maladies were supposed to lurk in night air, but the teachings of common sense and of science have killed that superstition. An open air life will build up a constitution, and a few weeks under canvas in summer is an admirable sequel to a winter's grind at one's profession or business.

Unfortunately, most of us have now dwelt so long under artificial conditions that a knowledge of how to live advantageously away from bricks and mortar is not generally known, and the novice may have some difficulty in deciding what outfit to take, and how best to govern his existence when far from the butcher, baker, doctor—and such luxuries of a city life.