

the weaker and more lowly cultivated plants; that this influence was transferred to domestic animals and the lives of men, and finally how some of these beliefs, long outgrown, have been handed down to us as mere superstitions. The prosaic and coldly rational temper with which modern men regard the manifestations of nature was unknown in the childhood of the race. Our primitive ancestors knew nothing about the laws of nature, nothing about physical forces, nothing about the relations of cause and effect, nothing about the necessary regularity of things. The only force they knew was the force of will; they believed all nature to be directed by the will of spirits whom they gave human, animal or vegetable forms and so built up their wonderful fabric of un-imagination.

Personally, I regret the passing of the imaginative and the poetic attitude of mind in regard to the trees and to the courses of vegetation as a whole. I think thereby we lose a great deal from our lives. There are times at least when it is good for the soul to forget that nature is ruled by cold, unalterable laws. For example, when we see the coralline buds of the arbutus pushing their way through a lingering snow bank or the delicate petals of the violet unfolding in their bed of fallen leaves; when we study the graceful branching system of the white birch or of the spired crown of a fig tree outlined in the winter's twilight; when we behold the passing glory of the autumn or in the spring feel the cosmic surge of re-awakening life feelings come to us which never could be inspired by the dogmatic rules of the laboratory or by the exact methods of scientific research. At such times we sympathize with those primitive people who tinged the manifestations of nature with the warm hues of the imagination and clothed them in the graceful drapery of mystic fancy.

#### Wind Damage on Prairies

Winnipeg, Man., May.—Saskatchewan has suffered considerably as a result of severe windstorms which swept over various portions of that province recently and, as a result, a great deal of seed was blown out of the ground, but the sections most affected are those which did not have the entire crop destroyed, said J. B. Musselman, secretary of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers in an interview here. "We had eight days of wind", said Mr. Musselman, "which did a vast amount of damage in central Saskatchewan, reaching from the Manitoba boundary to north

of Saskatoon. In the aggregate, a large acreage will have to be resown, but the greatest damage will arise from drifting of the soil itself and evaporation of an immense amount of moisture."

#### INCREASE RAILWAY PATROL.

Ten hand-speeders were purchased recently by the New Brunswick Forest Service and put to work patrolling the railroad from Nicol to Moffat's, on the St. Leonard's subdivision, seven miles of railroad being assigned to each patrolman, who will follow every train, and ex-

tinguish any fires that may occur. These ten hand speeders replace two power speeders which have proved unsatisfactory.

The order forbidding the burning of brush after the 10th of May has been well observed by the settlers especially in the northern part of the province. This order has received the approval of the licensees of the Crown Lands, Insurance Companies, and of many others interested in the prevention of fires, and it has been fully justified by the results obtained.

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