

the Department indicated that the Province of Ontario had on lands of which the whole title both to land and timber remained in the Crown, at least thirteen and one half billion (13,500,000,000) feet of red and white pine; and on lands licensed to lumbermen about seven billion feet of red and white pine. Of spruce pulp wood the stand on Crown lands was at least three hundred million cords. Turning these into dollars they had an asset in timber of three or four hundred million dollars, and that was without taking into consideration the hardwood or any wood outside of red and white pine and spruce.

One of the steps that had been taken with reference to the conservation of timber was the formation of forest reserves and national parks. These were as follows: — Temagami Forest Reserve 5,900 square miles, Mississauga 3,000 square miles, Nipigon 7,300, Algonquin Park 2,066 square miles, Sibley Reserve 70 square miles, Eastern Reserve in Frontenac County 100 square miles, Quetico Forest Reserve 1,700 square miles, and Rondeau Park, a small park on Lake Erie.

In all the province had over 20,000 square miles in forest reserves and provincial parks, and in these reserves they had at least ten billion (10,000,000,000) feet of pine, and possibly twenty million (20,000,000), cords of pulpwood. These reserves and parks were lands that were not adapted for settlement, and it was not intended to let settlement into them, or to endanger the preservation of the timber. In Algonquin Park they had received back into the Crown a number of licenses that originally existed for the cutting of timber, and they hoped in the near future to have all the title to the timber in that park.

Mr. Hearst pointed out that conservation did not tolerate the waste that would result from locking up timber. Trees ripened just like other crops, and unless cut within a reasonable time they began to decay and were eventually entirely lost. So, one of the problems they had was to arrange to harvest the ripe crop so that the most might be obtained from it for the province and for commerce and industry, and still retain the unmaturing trees so that the benefit from them may be reaped by the generations that come after. In this problem he asked the hearty sympathy and co-operation of the lumbermen of Ontario.

So much for lands not suited to agriculture. On lands fit for settlement the problem was to find the best method of getting off the timber to get the most out of it and at the same time benefit the incoming settler. The only practicable solution that he knew was to encourage the establishment of industries that would manufacture the timber from the settler's land.

This would aid the industries of the country and would give a market to the settler so as to enable him to get some return from his work in clearing his land.

Already considerable had been done in that line in saw mills and related industries. On the north side of the Height of Land pine ceased and the timber of greatest importance there was spruce and other soft woods. There had been established at Sault Ste Marie, Spanish River, Sturgeon Falls, Fort Frances and Dryden large pulp and paper plants which would work up this timber, and at the present time a very large plant was being constructed in the Abitibi district. In the near future they expected to have more similar plants.

Reforestation Sand Lands.

This was the situation in regard to timber lands unfit for settlement, and those fit for farming and into which settlement was being directed. There was a third class of lands, namely, those not fit for settlement but which owing to mistakes in the past (and he was not blaming anyone) had been cleared and cultivated. In the old part of Ontario a careful estimate indicated that about 9% was in woodland of a more or less inferior character, and that probably as much more might be better employed in growing timber than for any other purpose owing to the character of the soil. In other words they had in southern Ontario approximately ten million acres of wood land or land which was only fit for timber. These lands were privately owned, and the Province was endeavoring to encourage the owners to develop their woodlots and reforest the waste places that were now totally unproductive. It was to be expected that they would make rather slow progress in this educative work, for even in Germany, perhaps the most advanced country in the world in forestry, the privately owned woodlots were in anything but a satisfactory condition. In 1906 an Act was passed permitting municipal councils to pass by-laws exempting woodlots from taxation, but so far as he knew this had never yet been taken advantage of.

In 1905 a forestry station was established at Guelph under the Department of Agriculture, which acted as a bureau of information for the province generally. Last year this station was transferred to his own Department of Lands, Forests and Mines, and since then the work had been carried out on a somewhat larger scale. The nurseries had been removed to St. Williams in Norfolk County. Here they had acquired about sixteen hundred acres of sand lands for forest plantations, where they were carrying on perhaps the most extensive exemplification of forestry that was to be found in the Dominion. They were doing this to show by actual demon-