

agriculture, and on either side are to be found railways and thriving villages. How valuable this timber is to the settlers can readily be imagined. Timber may only be taken out by farmers under close supervision of the department, and then only for use on their farms. No owners or operators of sawmills can acquire any of it. The idea of the government is to help the settler and at the same time develop the country's resources. All present cutting of timber is being done under close supervision of the rangers and with a view to reproduction. Wherever cutting has been done to such an extent that portions of the reserve are denuded of tree growth, reforestation will follow in its wake.

Cutting must all be done under permits issued by crown timber agents, and these permits are issued exclusively to farmers. Among the other important duties pertaining to the rangers is the work of preventing settlers squatting in the reserve, and the preventing and extinguishing of fires.

### **The Rangers and Their Duties.**

Wm. A. Davis is chief forest ranger, and has headquarters at Dauphin. His division not only covers the Riding Mountain but several other reserves at more distant points, so that great responsibility rests on his shoulders. In this reserve Mr. Davis has four rangers under him, located at about equal distances apart. There are John W. Robertson, Gilbert Plains; W. Middleton, Elphinstone; Franz Hoffman, Scandinavia, and Albert McLeod, Kelwood.

The whole system of western forest reserves is under the direction of A. Knechtel, a man of wide experience, who served seven years

with the forestry department of the state of New York, joining the Dominion Forest Service in 1908.

The system of guarding against fire and controlling it, once it gets started, in the Riding Mountain is about as perfect as it can be under the circumstances. Once a fire breaks out the rangers get in communication with headquarters at Dauphin, either by telephone or telegraph, and the machinery is set in motion to command all the assistance required to control it and put it out.

Among the minor duties of the rangers is that of procuring seed of spruce and other trees. It is no easy matter to procure the cones of the spruce, as they grow on the extreme ends of the limbs of the tall trees. When picked, the cones are sent to the Forest Nursery Station at Indian Head, Sask. There the seed is extracted. Part of it is returned for reforestation purposes to the reserve and the rest is sown at Indian Head, whence the trees produced are distributed to the farmers throughout the prairie provinces to be used in beautifying and protecting their homes.

### **Value as a Summer Resort.**

The Riding mountains abound in beautiful lakes of the purest water. By cutting roads into the reserve it is possible to create a number of splendid resorts, which could be used by the settlers in the vicinity during the summer season.

### **A Game Preserve.**

The rapid extinction of the large game in the country suggests that this reserve, which is one of the best deer runs remaining in the west, be created into a big preserve. If the monarchs of the forest, the elk and the moose, are to be preserved, this must be done. Each year the bands which roam the reserve are lessening in number and it will be only a matter of a few years before there will be none left if the present rate of

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\*Since this article was written, Mr. W. A. Davis has been given charge of the Duck Mountain and Porcupine forest reserves, with headquarters at Dauphin, and Mr. McLeod made chief fire ranger of the Riding Mountain reserve.