

thern Ontario is not likely to take an active interest in forest policy, and it will take considerable education and publicity work to make him see that he is a joint owner in the state forest lands.

The Clay Belt at the north, estimated as an area of sixteen to twenty million of acres, is a region of spruce, balsam, poplar and birch of comparatively small timber, probably more adapted to the pulp than to the lumber industry. This region has in general a soil adapted for agricultural development and it is being opened for settlement.

Opinion Favors Burning.

I do not propose to discuss at any length the forestry problems which are developing in this region. Owing to the local opinion that burning, clearing and cultivation will improve the climatic conditions of this region there is a tendency to look upon forest fires as a blessing.

It is certain that clearance, drainage and cultivation of the land will lengthen the growing season. There are many soils with a large amount of vegetable mould and humus where limited burning may be beneficial but indiscriminate burning is injuring many of the heavier clay soils, especially upon rolling land.

Forest Reserve of All.

Lying to the south of the Clay Belt is a region about one thousand miles long and from one hundred to two hundred miles in width, which from its very nature can never be developed along agricultural lines. Here and there are patches of soil suited for agriculture but in the main this must always be a forest and mining region. Within this region we have a number of Reserves and Parks. I often feel that it would have been preferable to have created this whole region a Forest Reserve and then to have admitted the smaller interests under special conditions. Within this region there is the outstanding problem of protec-

tion. Until this is reasonably well accomplished it is useless to talk of artificial reforestation.

The old settled agricultural portion of Ontario presents forestry problems peculiar to its own conditions. We have a region as large as some provinces, a region which has been cleared and more or less settled. We have large areas upon which efforts to farm have been attempted and given up as a hopeless task. Thousands of acres of worthless areas have developed which present social and economic conditions demanding attention.

Experimental Planting.

Ontario has undertaken a demonstration of the possibilities on one of these areas in Norfolk County. Here we have a Provincial Forest Station with two thousand acres, in the heart of a good agricultural region, where a demonstration is being made at forest planting and other forestry problems.

We have reclaimed by forest planting, sandy soils which had become a menace to surrounding territory, sand dunes covering township roads, etc. Aside from the actual work being done at this Station it is interesting to note the influence upon the surrounding district. The planting of small pines on these sands was at first ridiculed by many of the farmers of the district. Our first planting in 1909, upon a sand dune which was moving across the township road and over which many farmers had to pass, is to-day a young forest of imposing character. I repeat that at first this work met doubt and even ridicule. To-day it has the active support of the local people and last season over fifty thousand trees were given out in the vicinity to private parties wishing to follow the example upon similar soils.

I wish to point out that we do not expect to solve the problem of a future wood supply. We are, however, reclaiming waste land and lay-