

DOMINION FOREST PARTIES.

A number of the officers of the Dominion Forestry Branch left Ottawa during May for summer field-work in various portions of the West. The plans for work outside of the regular work in connection with the Forest Reserves will take the men through a large area of country which has not been previously traversed by men trained to look for matters pertaining to forestry.

The most important trip will be that of Mr. E. H. Finlayson, Inspector of Fire Ranging. This was briefly referred to in a previous issue of *The Journal*. Mr. Finlayson left Ottawa during the latter part of May and will be engaged for a short time in administrative work connected with the fire-ranging organization which is under his supervision. About the middle of June, however, he will leave Prince Albert on his way north. Travelling by canoe from the end of the Big River branch of the Canadian Northern Railway, he will follow water routes until he reaches the Beaver River. This river is one of the main streams at the head of the Churchill river which flows into Hudson Bay at Fort Churchill. A number of large lakes lie in this district, and some of them will be traversed by Mr. Finlayson's party. They include Lac Doré, Lac la Plonge, Ile a la Crosse lake, Clear lake, Buffalo lake and La Loche lake. A portage over a low height of land leads to the Clearwater River, which will be followed for about one hundred miles until the Hudson's Bay Company's Post at McMurray is reached. This is situated at the confluence of the Clearwater and Athabaska rivers. The balance of Mr. Finlayson's trip will lie along the regular routes of travel of the Mackenzie river valley. Mr. Finlayson plans to go as far north as Fort Simpson, situated at the point where the Liard joins the Mackenzie river. The route of travel follows the Athabaska river to its mouth at Lake Atha-

baska, down the Slave river to Great Slave lake, and from there down the Mackenzie river proper.

The main object of Mr. Finlayson's trip is to obtain information in regard to the country which will make it possible to organize a staff of fire-rangers for the protection of the timberlands of the region. The present organization in this connection provides only protection along the river, although, of course, that covers the area most travelled. There will be this summer two fire-patrol boats, of which one will operate northward from Fort Smith and the other in a southerly direction from that point.

Another matter that will engage Mr. Finlayson's attention is the herd of reindeer, which was transported by the Dominion Government from Labrador. The herd was secured from Dr. Grenfell, who has done much to encourage the introduction of this useful animal into Labrador and Newfoundland. The Dominion Government herd is at present located at Fort Smith and is under the supervision of the Forestry Branch. The reindeer have in the summer been troubled a great deal by the mosquitos and flies, and it is proposed to transfer them to an island in Great Slave Lake.

The reconnaissance survey parties left for the various districts assigned to them during the month of May. Mr. J. A. Doucet with Mr. R. M. Watt as assistant were the first to start off. This party will be engaged in an examination of lands in the valley of the Peace river. This season's work will complete the examination of lands connected with the Rocky Mountains Forest Reserve upon which men have been engaged for the past three seasons.

Messrs. Donald Grieg and T. A. Trebilcock will be working between Lake Winnipeg and Lake Manitoba. Mr. A. B. Connell, with Mr. A. M. Thurston as assistant will examine the Pasquia Hills in the province of Saskatchewan. Mr. G. P. Melrose, of the