

tions a 50 per cent. loss has occurred. The planted or plantable areas are of peculiar shape. because observance of the 1,500-foot elevation limit excludes many parts that otherwise would fall conveniently and symmetrically within the scope of the scheme. In fact, there are constant reminders that even the more accessible and residential parts of this expansive plateau are near the height above which afforestation ceases to be a commercial proposition.

"The Duchy scheme embraces about 5,000 acres, of which 400 acres have al-

ready been planted. The nurseries were formed as part of the enterprise for reasons of economy, and they have proved a saving and a success. The young larches and spruces raised here cost less than the transport of plants introduced from other suitable sources, and they have been equally adapted and healthy. The nurseries, which are under the immediate direction of Captain Hale, are still limited in extent, but they are advanced sufficiently to be of marked economic advantages in the development of the local enterprise, while there are de-

finite prospects of wider benefits in later years. They are managed on modern principles, and the equipment for expediency and economy in every detail is complete."

THE FORESTER AND HIS WORK AS A CREATOR.

From an Address to Forestry Students of the University of Toronto, by Dr. C.

D. Howe.)

One of the greatest enduring satisfactions of life is to be a creator, but it is still greater satisfaction to guide the development of that thing which you have created. That is the greatest satisfaction in a farmer's life, and that will be the greatest satisfaction in your lives. The beautiful and wonderful thing in your profession is that you will take this plastic, mobile life-unit, which we call a forest, and fashion it to meet your ideal; the largest quantity of the best quality of wood for the purposes desired. I can't pass by this point without elaborating it a little; it always seems so wonderful to me. Why is it that forest trees can form such a highly organized community, so sensitive to the slightest changes in climate and soil conditions, and consequently so easily moulded by the hand of man? It lies in their mode of growth. Each annual ring of growth, together with the new leaves that appear every year, are new colonies of cells, a new generation of life. When the conditions of life in a forest have changed for any tree, when, for example, it became a suppressed tree instead of a dominant one, the new cells of the growth of that year became adapted to their new conditions. The same is true when a suppressed tree, through some accident to its neighbors comes into the full enjoyment of light. The last annual growth is at once capable of taking advantage of the new situation created in the forest. So long, then, as the tree can form annual rings, it possesses the plasticity and the adaptability to meet the condition imposed upon it by its neighbors. That little growing layer under the bark is a wonderful thing! If we seek still farther for the cause of the plasticity and adaptability of forest growth, we would find it in the living matter contained in these annual new colonies of cells, the substance we call protoplasm. It is because the protoplasm has the power of receiving impressions from without and of reacting to those impressions that we have plasticity in plant life. Were it not for this irritability of the protoplasm, we would have no growth, no differentiation of structure, no evolution. Were it not for this, we might still be little blebs of jelly sucking up mud on the bottom of the primordial seas.

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