

FOREST PROTECTION.

The following article by our esteemed correspondent Mr. Edward Jack appears in the St. John, N. B., *Globe*, and we are happy to reproduce it:—

During the present autumn, when in the forests of the interior of New Brunswick, my attention was attracted by the brownish red color of the tops of the spruce trees on a ridge not very far distant from the hill on which I stood. To my astonishment I found that fire had penetrated these woods for a distance of from 12 to 15 miles, its average breadth being 2 miles, involving the loss of at least \$50,000 to the owners in the way of stumpage, to say nothing of that to the country in the money which would have been spent in hauling, driving, sawing and shipping so many trees.

The fire in this instance had been the result of carelessness of two men employed as cooks on a river drive. They had set it in a bush pile on the shore of Burnt Hill stream and neglected to extinguish it.

During the time when logs are being driven fires are very apt to run even in hardwood lands, owing to the masses of dry leaves which at that time cover the surface of the ground; when once plants and low shrubs are in full leaf, there is very little to dread from forest fires until late in the season, after long droughts when every green thing is dried and parched up.

Forest fires are usually started by river drivers, hunters, fishermen, or free grant and labor act settlers, who have allowed to occupy what is usually called, among lumbermen "black land;" in other words covered chiefly by a soft-wood growth.

To meet these special cases there is no legislation, although it is urgently demanded. I propose to take up each of these cases separately and show, in so far as at least as the valuable Crown Lands of the Province are concerned, how the danger of destruction from forest fires can be reduced to a minimum by wise legislation and the adoption of cheap precautionary measures.

Before doing so and by way of preface I will quote the words of W. Little, Esq., of Montreal, a gentleman who has ever been foremost in the advancement of forest interests:—

"If the timber land owner would annually expend the same percentage he is willing to spend to insure other property of like value, towards putting his timber property in safe condition, he could so place it that it would be difficult to set it on fire so as to do any serious injury."

First mentioned and perhaps as important as any in the subject of forest fires caused by careless river drivers, a class largely composed of reckless and sometimes unprincipled men. Log drives are yearly becoming more consolidated, and the work which was formerly undertaken by half a dozen parties, is now frequently executed by one, since the greater quantity of lumber driven, the cheaper the work can be done, all other things being equal.

Such being the case one expects the party in charge of a large drive to see that proper care be bestowed on his neighbor's property, through which he is passing, and here legislation should interfere and require him to do something like the following manner:—

He should be required to appoint one trusty man to see that no fire be left burning when the driving parties leave the spot where they have been encamped over night or when the men leave the spot where any may have been kindled for the purpose of lunch, dinner or any other meal; should the chief river driver fail to make such appointment of fire ward he should in such case be liable to a penalty and be made chargeable by law for any loss through forest fires which might occur by or through the neglect or carelessness of his men. Further, if any forest fire should happen by or through the neglect of the driving crew, that the party or parties guilty of such neglect or carelessness should forfeit his or their wages, provided damage be done to the surrounding forest to the extent of \$10 or more, such party or parties being also subject to fine or imprisonment.

In order to compel the holder of the timber license to take an interest in this matter a clause should be inserted in the same, that in case the

whole or part of any logs cut on such lease should be driven without the appointment of such fire ward by the man in charge of the drive, that all the blocks on which such logs may have been cut shall, or may be, declared vacant, and be again offered for sale at public auction.

The next class of people who sometimes are the cause of forest fires are hunters. As this business is uncertain and precarious, it would be as well for the interest of the individual, as well as for that of the country, to discountenance the professional hunter as much as possible, more especially as he frequently kills moose and cariboo for their hides alone, leaving the carcasses in the woods to rot.

It has been suggested by Mr. Henry Braithwaite, and I entirely concur in the idea, that it would be well for the Government to make a large game reserve of the forests on the north side of the South West Miramichi, extending to the Tobique and Nepesiguit, and to place the same under the management of some competent woodman, with competent assistants, whose duty it should be to see that the game on these be protected. There are yet in this part of New Brunswick plenty of cariboo and many moose, and protection of game means protection of the forest.

In order to meet the expenses attending such reserve and its protection, hunting and fishing permits could be issued to parties giving bonds to hunt according to law, such parties to pay such reasonable sum as might be demanded. I have no doubt but that in a short time permits enough would be sold to more than pay all expenses, while the game would suffer no decrease, the production keeping the stock up.

QUEBEC PUBLIC FORESTS.

We take from the report in the Montreal *Herald* of the proceedings at the annual meeting of the Province of Quebec Forestry Association the following extract from the discussion on the President's report. It will be seen that the Quebec Commissioner of Crown Lands takes an intelligent interest in the subject:

Mr. J. X. Perrault referred to the great importance of education in the matter of forestry, and expressed the hope that the association would encourage the distribution of forestry literature throughout the Province. He would like to know, from the Minister of Crown Lands, if his department intended taking any steps to assure a proper distribution of forests in districts, so that the cutting of the forests should be done systematically, and that when one portion was cut the lumbermen should not return to that district for say twenty years, when it would be restored. This was the system followed in Europe and he thought steps should be taken to procure the same here.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS.

Hon. Mr. Lynch, in reply, said that the progress that had been made in forestry matters since last year must prove a source of the greatest encouragement and satisfaction to the members of the society, and especially to the president, Hon. Mr. Joly, who had gone to much trouble. He did not think that persons generally realized the difficulties that attended the foundation of this society and the establishment of what was known as "Arbor Day." When the idea of having such a day was inaugurated he himself had thought there was very little in it, that it was more of an idea that would never become a reality. Practical experience had, however, shown him that it was a reality which could not fail to be the source of much future good to the country. There had been not a few difficulties attending the inauguration of such a day, but he was glad to be able to say, that from one end of the Province to the other a beginning had been made, and not only in the large cities and districts, but also in the smaller hamlets and villages, had the day been celebrated with much success. This, he was pleased to notice, was one of the results of that combined associated effort that had led to the foundation of this Association, and to the adoption of legislation regarding the protection and separation of our timber and colonization lands. He firmly believed that the latter was one of those pieces of legislation that would be of great good to the country. The object of the legislation in question was in the direction to which Mr.

Perrault had referred. He had only occupied, he might say, the position of Minister of Crown Lands for a few months, but in this short period he had learnt that it was a most responsible position and that upon it depended very greatly the future prosperity of this province. He thought that they should protect their natural resources; about all that they had now was their forests, and they were a legacy handed down to us to preserve, not to destroy. He might add that there was no legislation of the nature spoken of by Mr. Perrault, and he did not know that he was in a position to bring such legislation before the approaching session of the legislature for the reason that it covered the whole ground and had to be most carefully considered. The aim of the Association, he thought, should be to encourage whatever Government was in power to preserve and protect their forests, and he was in hopes that before long the Association would deputize one of its members to co-operate with the Minister of Crown Lands, and in this way such legislation might be effected as would assure the object spoken of by Mr. Perrault. He referred to the great need there was for education on this subject, as there existed, to a great extent, in the minds of the masses, an idea that this movement was one of no practical effect, and this idea would have to be dispelled. It had been said that a conflict might arise between the Government and the lumbermen. He, however, believed that the great majority of the lumbermen would aid them, as it was to their interest to do so. The importance of the subject was great—so great, in fact, that when the meeting adjourned it would do so with the understanding that the members should meet again at an early date to discuss the question. Legislation was imperatively needed. He would like to see it well and carefully considered, but he would also wish to see it passed as speedily as possible. The future prosperity of the Province depended largely, he was convinced, upon the action they took now, and there should be no delay in the matter. (Applause.)

Mr. J. Y. Perrault suggested that a committee be appointed to take the matter of legislation into consideration and report to the Association.

THE FORESTRY EXHIBITION.

We referred a few days ago to the International Forestry Exhibition proposed to be held next year in Edinburgh. The forest productions of Canada are such as to enable her to take a very high place, if not the highest, in some of the departments embraced within the scope of the Exhibition. In this connection it may be interesting to refer to the report of the Royal Commissioners upon the exhibit made by Canada at the International Exhibition held in London in 1862. The Commissioners say that "in point of size of specimens, excellent selection and information given, the Upper Canada collection of models is undoubtedly the finest in the exhibition building. It is contributed by sixteen individuals, and consists of planks, logs, squared logs, transverse sections, polished specimens, veneers, and a very extensive series of scientifically collected and named leaves, flowers, shoots etc., etc." This collection the Royal Commissioners refer to in very high terms of praise, such as "magnificent," "beautiful," "noble specimens." Some of the wood specimens were five feet in diameter. One of white oak which reached London too late for exhibition, was six feet in diameter and six feet long, from a tree with a trunk sixty to the first limb. There were planks of extraordinary dimensions one of white pine and one of white oak, each fifty inches broad; black walnut thirty inches; hickory, thirty-six inches; and a beautiful plank of soft maple twelve feet long by forty-five inches broad. Of the scientific collection the Commissioners speak in equally high terms of praise. Amongst the exhibitors was the Hon. James Skead, of this city, who sent five specimens of timber from the Ottawa region. Samples of these were given to the leading Governments of Europe, to the scientific societies, to the Admiralty, to the British Museum, to Kew Gardens, to Lloyds, and Lloyds added several kinds of Canadian woods to their A No. 1 ships. The Kew Gardens' authorities erected a building expressly for the woods from the exhibition,

giving the Canadian woods the place of honour. The Royal Commissioners state that the Canadian collection derived much of its exactness and scientific value to the exertions of the commissioner, Dr. Hurlbert, and they refer to the collection generally as one of the most complete illustrations of the resources of a colony ever exhibited. It is of the utmost importance that Canada's forest products should be properly represented at the Edinburgh Exhibition. There is not too much time at disposal for making the necessary arrangements and for urging those interested to go to work to prepare their specimens. If the Government decide that the country shall be represented on the occasion, and no doubt they will so decide, we feel sure that Parliament will cheerfully vote the necessary sum of money to pay the expenses of the exhibition. There never was a time in the history of our country when so much attention was paid to Canada and her resources as the present. The Dominion is being advertised in the United Kingdom and in Europe as it was never advertised before. The visits of prominent Englishmen; the favourable reports of agricultural delegates and of men of such high standing as Professor Tauxer, which we have noticed recently; the varied services of our late Governor-General; the exertions of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company; and the Canadian display at the International Fisheries exhibition, all have had the effect of bringing Canada and Canadian affairs before the British public. The approaching Forestry Exhibition will afford another favourable opportunity for making the country still better known. Whatever is to be done for having the Dominion represented on the occasion should be done without delay.—*Ottawa Citizen*.

FORESTRY IN ENGLAND.

We take the following from the London *Times*:—

On Thursday, the 2nd of August, Sir John Lubbock found the opportunity he has for some time been seeking of calling attention, in the House of Commons, to the important question of establishing a forest school in England. He did so when the House went into Committee of Supply and the vote of £23,232 for the office of woods and forests came on for discussion. Sir John asked the Government to consider during the autumn the question of forest education in this country, and whether the natural forests might be utilized for this purpose. He said:—

"So much, indeed, had forestry been neglected, that in Scotland the words suggested deer, but no trees; while the idea of foresters in England was associated with the members of an excellent provident institution. Of course, the Crown forests formed but a small part of the subject. There were altogether, in round numbers, 2,500,000 acres of woods and plantations in this country, so that the subject was one of vast importance. Moreover, it was calculated that in Scotland and Wales they were 5,000,000 or 6,000,000 acres at present almost valueless, and which, if judiciously planted, would give large results. In the science of forestry we were, he feared, far behind, most foreign countries, especially France and Germany; and he was very anxious that our landed proprietors should benefit by the experience which other nations had acquired. But let him ask where was a country gentleman who owned woodlands to obtain information as to their management or to procure trained assistants? We had no forest school in this country; we had no class of persons specially trained and instructed in the formation and management of woods. It was, he feared, still true that, as the House of Commons' Committee of 1864 reported, timber is "everywhere worse managed than any other species of property." Unless something were done this state of things would continue. On the other hand, the highest authorities had expressed a very strong opinion that we might make our woodlands much more profitable; they show one step which was a necessary preliminary. The highest English authorities were strongly in favor of the establishment of a forest school, and had forcibly pointed out the loss which our present system of management, or rather mismanagement, entailed on landowners. Mr. Brown, in his standard work on forests, observed that "if our forests had been judic-