

## FORESTRY

"Rod and Gun" is the official organ of the Canadian Forestry Association. The Editor will welcome contributions on topics relating to Forestry.

### THE PROGRESS OF FORESTRY IN ONTARIO.

In considering the progress of the movement in the direction of rational and scientific forestry methods in Ontario, it is difficult to overestimate the importance of the legislation introduced by the Commissioner of Crown Lands in the Legislature of 1898, styled the Forest Reserves Act, by which power was given the Government to set aside areas of the Crown domain to be kept perpetually for growing timber.

While the far-reaching consequences of the carrying out of this Act are readily perceptible to those who have made a study of the subject, it is doubtful if the great value of the Forest Reserves Act to the people of Ontario is generally appreciated. The Bureau of Forestry receives many letters expressing sympathy with the efforts to promote scientific forestry in Ontario, and quite frequently the hope is expressed that we may soon adopt the system in vogue in Germany.

#### WHAT IS FORESTRY.

Scientific forestry, as the writer understands it, is the growing of wood crops for profit, and from that standpoint the expensive and semi-military forestry system of Germany is out of the question in this country, where only a comparatively small part of the forest crop has a market value. Germany, with a much smaller acreage under timber than we have, expends more on her forestry service each year than the total expenditure for all services in Ontario. In a country where every product of the forest has a market, even to the leaves and the roots of trees, it is profitable to plant trees on a large scale at a cost of \$10 to \$15 per acre, but in Ontario, where the territory to be operated is so large and labor high, where only a portion of the most valuable sorts of trees can be sold, the financial profit in this method of forest culture would be problematical.

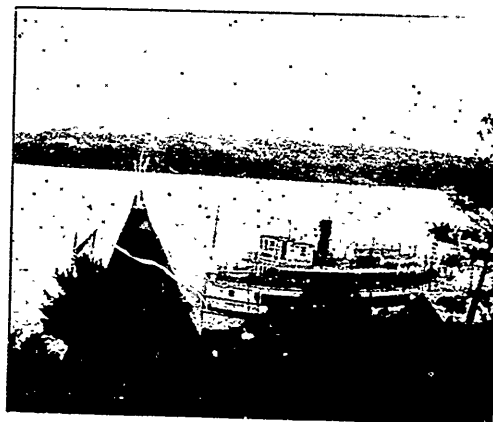
### NO NEED FOR EXTENSIVE PLANTING.

Fortunately we do not need to follow this plan. If fire and the farmer's plough are kept away the forest crop will re-seed itself, and the first thing

is the direction of obtaining for the whole people as great a profit as possible from the great crop of standing timber with which we were originally endowed. From allowing a favored firm of contractors to cut timber at their own sweet will, where and when they chose, free of any charges by the State, to selling the standing pine timber only for \$13,500 per square mile, plus \$1.25 per 1,000 feet, board measure, when the timber is cut, is very great progress in the direction referred to, yet that is what has been accomplished.

### A FARMING COUNTRY.

Until quite recently Ontario was regarded as a purely agricultural coun-



The Dock at Kensington Point, Deserats Islands, Northern Ontario. There are more than one hundred islands within five miles.

to be done is to see that as far as land suitable for tree growing are permanently secured for that purpose confining the actual planting operations to such scattered blank spaces as have failed to seed readily, and to so direct the cutting of the standing crop as to insure a continuance of the right sorts of trees.

In arranging for such a systematic method as will be most profitable to us, the Forest Reserves Act is the first important step—is, in fact, the inauguration of a scientific forestry system in Ontario.

#### FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT.

A perusal of the historical sketch of the development of our Crown timber regulations, appearing elsewhere in this report, will disclose a steady progress:

try, adapted only to agriculture, in which timber was not considered a profitable crop. The aim of our legislators was to clear the ground for general farming purposes, and in doing so to first dispose of the most valuable timber to the best advantage.

On that basis it is doubtful if any better system could be devised than that embodied in the Crown Timber Act of 1849, with the subsequent amendments and the regulations adopted under it. That Act provides for the sale of the standing crop of timber to the highest bidder, the fee simple of the land remaining in the Crown, to be disposed of subsequently to the settler. The lumberman is given a license to cut certain specified kinds of timber on payment of the price agreed upon,