

carried out. The reserves alluded to are at certain posts of the Company, distributed throughout the North West Territory, and their survey will afford facilities to acquire information respecting the climate and resources of many parts of the country, in regard to which little is as yet publicly known.

The attention of the gentleman to whom the work has been entrusted, Mr. W. S. Gore, P.L.S., has been directed specially to the acquiring of all such information obtainable at the posts visited, and his report will doubtless be a valuable one. The surveys will probably occupy Mr. Gore for two years.

#### INSPECTION OF SURVEYS.

The number of surveys in Manitoba, contract and otherwise, undertaken during the past season, having rendered it absolutely necessary that Mr. Russell should receive assistance, the appointment of Messrs. Milner Hart, of St. Marys, Ontario, and A. H. Whitcher, of Sherbrooke, Quebec, as Assistant Inspectors, has provided the means of exercising a strict supervision over the surveys by gentlemen in whose ability and integrity implicit confidence may be placed. These appointments became the more needed, owing to circumstances having rendered it necessary to make Mr. Russell's services as an Astronomer available, in connection with fixing the longitude of certain points affecting important boundaries within the Dominion.

An abstract from the report of the Inspector of Surveys, accompanied by a series of descriptive extracts from the report of Deputy Surveyors, is appended hereto, numbered six.

#### EXPLORATIONS.

Certain of these have been conducted during the past season, with a view to ascertain the timber supply, and obtain information by which to judge of the fitness for settlement of the tracts explored, and consequently whether it would be desirable to extend the regular survey to these localities.

In addition to the details of explorations afforded by the schedule, a reconnaissance Schedule "3." of the Pine Lands along the forty-ninth parallel, as lately surveyed, east of Pembina, and also an examination of a tract said to contain spruce timber, in the vicinity of the source of the River Seine, are now being proceeded with.

As regards the future lumber supply of the Province, it will be seen by reference to the schedule, that the same must be looked for principally in the forests bounding on the east, the settlements in the Red River Valley, and in the region lying between this Province and Lake Superior.

As settlements extend along the line of Pacific Railway, northwesterly, the supply will be obtained from spruce forests, which exist in the "Duck and Dauphin" Mountains, and in the vicinity of the Saskatchewan.

#### BUILDING TIMBER AND FUEL REGULATIONS.

In compliance with your instructions, measures have been adopted to prevent the wanton destruction of timber and wood in the Province, and at the same time to provide legitimate means by which settlers on prairie lands can obtain a supply for their own use, within certain limits, free of tax.

The regulations adopted under Order in Council, provide as well for the issue of special permits to parties who may wish to furnish building timber or fuel, on payment of a small tax, for supplying people in towns and villages, the object sought, being not to create a revenue from this source, but, in controlling the cutting of timber and fuel for market, to cause as little waste as possible.

It is gratifying to know that the above measures have been recognised as necessary, and have been cheerfully concurred in by all classes in the Province.