

THE GASPESIAN FOREST RESERVE.

The following report recommending the setting apart of a Timber Reserve, has been submitted by Mr. W. C. J. Hall, of the Crown Lands Department, Quebec, to the Commissioner of Lands:—

I would beg respectfully to represent to the Hon. Minister that in the Gaspé Peninsula there exists an opportunity of creating a forest reservation which would possess unrivalled advantageous features for the perpetuating of the forests therein comprised, and the maintenance for all time of the water supply of that region.

I question very much if on the continent of America a better site could be found for exploiting the system of Forest Reserves than in this locality, a system which the United States has adopted unreservedly, and which the Dominion of Canada is fast awakening to, *e.g.*, to-day in the Province of Ontario the Government has set aside territory unsuitable for profitable agriculture to the extent of no less than $5\frac{3}{4}$ millions of acres, and I have no doubt the intention is to keep on increasing the reserves.

In Germany the State forests comprise an area of thirty-five millions of acres, but they have been practising forestry for one hundred and fifty years.

By the term "Forest Reserve" I would point out that it is not the intention to prohibit the cutting of mature and ripe growth. This can be allowed in the ordinary way under "Timber License," as exists to-day. But by creating such reserves in suitable localities the Government is in a position to enact remedial legislation if it be found that removal of the mature growth is not succeeded by a crop of like species.

It is claimed by some that after cutting the mature coniferous growth the deciduous trees preponderate and snuff out the existence of the smaller coniferous growth existing under the canopy of the broad-leaved varieties.