

of wood by the settlers is restricted to this dead material, the taking of green timber being prohibited, until the forest is clean of dry logs and brush.

GRAZING.

The Department encourages grazing on the forest reserves and the removal of hay therefrom as a means of reducing the danger of fire. On every reserve

there are grazing areas and hay lands among the timber. In some places there is a dense growth of long grass and pea-vine. This, when dry, offers fuel for fire, and, when the fire gets into it, it is almost impossible to check the flames. Moreover, cattle going to water from the pasture lands make paths, which, though small, offer some resistance to fire and give lines from which to back-fire.

Some Manitoba Tree Claims.

In the course of the proceedings of the forestry convention held at Regina in September last a resolution was offered suggesting that the homestead laws be amended so as to provide for the granting of a homestead in return for the planting and successful cultivation in forest trees of a certain proportion of the quarter section.

The idea called forth some discussion, and among other points attention was drawn to the fact that action similar to that suggested had already been taken by the Dominion Government, but without much success.

It was in 1876—considerably over thirty years ago—that certain clauses were inserted in the Dominion Lands Act having reference to "forest tree culture" claims. These clauses provided that any person, male or female, of eighteen years of age or over could make entry for a quarter section, or other area of land, after paying the usual fee of ten dollars. Six years were required to elapse after the date of entry before a patent could be issued. One-fifth of the land applied for was to be planted with trees, that area amounting, in the case of an ordinary quarter-section, to thirty-two acres.

In the case of an entry for a quarter-section (160 acres) eight acres had to be broken and prepared for planting during the first year, the same amount during the second year and the remaining sixteen acres within the third year. Eight acres must be planted to trees during the second year, an additional eight

acres during the third year and the remaining sixteen acres within four years from the date of entry. Trees were to be planted not less than twelve feet apart each way. Cultivation of the trees up to the end of the six years from date of entry had also to be shown.

If less or more land than 160 acres were applied for, the areas specified above were changed to correspond.

These clauses remained in the act with some slight amendments until 1883, when they were dropped.

Only seven patents were ever taken out under these provisions. One of these was near Cartwright, Man., the remainder are within a few miles of Morden, Man.

During the past season Mr. A. P. Stevenson, of Dunston, Man., acting under instructions from Mr. R. H. Campbell, made an inspection of a number of these plantations.

The best of these was found to be that on the north-east quarter of Section 28, Township 3, Range 5; this is now owned by Dr. McConnell, of Morden. The plantation consists of aspen and Balm of Gilead trees, and is six acres in extent. The trees average about forty feet in height and 4½ inches in diameter at two feet above the ground. Originally the trees were spaced eight feet apart each way, but as the young shoots and suckers were never cut out, the number of trees has increased until they now stand at an average distance of five feet apart each way. The soil is a moist sandy loam.