

Till two years ago Algonquin Park, covering over 2,000 square miles, was a collection of timber limits on which lumbermen had licenses to cut both pine and hardwood. Cutting was going on at a rate that threatened the sources of several rivers. Conservation measures were resolved upon for removal of the forest growth would destroy the park and would injure the streams which had their sources in the park. The Government has spent \$290,000 to extinguish timber licenses covering 219 square miles of the park and in some adjoining townships covering 132 square miles which have been added to the reservation. Provision has been made for securing by purchase the surrender of other licenses in the reserve. Ontario's six forest reserves cover an area of 18,000 square miles.

Now no timber is sold except where forest areas have been damaged by fire. Timber so damaged must of necessity be sold and sold promptly. When such sales take place the areas are divided into small berths so that the small operator can be in as good a position to tender as his big competitor. Timber put up for sale on such occasions is offered at a rate per thousand feet instead of a rate per mile, and this ensures that all the timber cut shall be paid for.

With the increase in the value of timber the Government felt warranted in increasing the fees on timber licenses. The rate of dues was increased from \$1 to \$1.50 a thousand feet board measure and on square timber from \$20 to \$50 a thousand feet cubic. The ground rent was increased from \$3 to \$5 a mile.

The trend of public and high school education has taken a practical turn and promises to be more rational. The overcrowding of the professions and the imperfect provision made for the training of skilled workmen have demonstrated that the tendency has been to educate the young mind away from labour

and handicraft rather than to equip that mind for the day's work in practical life. As a state Ontario has been a most generous supporter of education. But it is not too much to say that the results obtained are none too satisfactory considering the money spent. This tendency to give cultural training rather than vocational training is a relic, to some extent, of the days when the population of the Province was not so well served by the professions and when manufacturing was carried on only in a comparatively small way.

Classes in agriculture are already in the rural schools. They are in charge of the District Representatives whose other duties have become so pressing that their work as teachers cannot be given the attention it requires. Sir James Whitney has recently announced that these classes are soon to be conducted by teachers who will be graduates in the new agriculture course established by the Ontario Government. The teacher-in-training who makes agriculture his specialty is to take a four years' course, the first two years to be spent in Toronto, McMaster and Queen's University, and the second two years at the Ontario Agricultural College.

Cautious but steady steps are being taken to give the school teacher a professional standing in the eyes of the public and to secure for the members of that profession salaries that will induce them to follow that calling longer. The Honourable Dr. R. A. Pyne, the Minister of Education, has a devoted assistant in his deputy minister, Dr. A. H. Colquhoun, in his efforts to attain those ends. Failure on the part of the school boards to pay adequate salaries is not the least of the causes of the scarcity of teachers. The cost of a public school education is being lowered. Now a set of public school readers costs forty-nine cents; formerly these books cost \$1.15.