

## Burning Off the Claybelt

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### Peculiar Problems of Agricultural Areas of Northern Ontario Investigated by the Association.

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Forest conservation in Northern Ontario offers more than the normal complications. Several weeks ago the Canadian Forestry Association submitted to some of the Boards of Trade along the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway a form of resolution the main points of which they were asked to endorse. The resolution called upon the Ontario Government to find some means to curb the number and destructiveness of settlers' fires in the forested districts of Ontario and suggested an investigation of the "permit system" in use in British Columbia and Quebec. Secondly it was asked that "the forest protection service should be so reorganized as to bring about adequate field supervision and inspection which would ensure efficient work by the rangers."

At a meeting of the Associated Boards of Trade, held at Haileybury, March 8th, the Secretary of the Forestry Association was given a courteous hearing and laid before the large number of delegates the main contentions. He stated that in advocating reasonable safeguards against indiscriminate burning, no one wished to hamper the settler in the necessary work of clearing the land, or in the liberal use of fire for that purpose. All that was asked was the supervision of clearing fires by a simple and convenient plan of permits from rangers, these officers assisting the settler to accomplish his results with the minimum of danger to standing growth and to neighbors' property.

An objection was taken by two

or three members present to any government supervision of clearing fires whatever. These delegates advocated unrestricted employment of fires, big and small, to clear the lands of the Claybelt free them from excessive moisture, the perils of frosts and lengthen the growing season.

Others, however, strongly opposed such a view and believed that clearing could be done with some regard for the future. Non-agricultural lands, bordering the Claybelt and within it should be protected from fire.

A live discussion followed, in which many phases of the question were given expression. Finally a committee was appointed to investigate the question more fully and this committee will report back to the Associated Boards of Trade.

#### *A Special Situation.*

Peculiar local conditions in some at least of the agricultural communities of Northern Ontario undoubtedly call for special treatment as concerns forest protection. At the present time the settler away from the lines of the T. and N. O. railway appears to have a free hand in the use of tree growth. Many conflicting statements are heard in regard to the profit and lack of profit from settlers' pulp wood. Certainly a very large amount of pulpwood is cut by settlers and marketed, for over 110,000 cords from homesteads came down the T. and N. O. Railway last year. On the other hand, one will meet with plenty of settlers, capable looking men, who will give