

the great North-West prairie land, and they have parted with it in every direction ; to every speculator who was willing to pay them a small sum, for the privilege of fleecing the settler, and every hanger-on to whom they owed some gratuity they could not otherwise conveniently pay ; till the whole territory, far in advance of the settlers' progress, is eaten up by these Ottawa-commissioned locusts, and at this moment, we are told on good authority, for the immense distance of seven hundred miles beyond Winnipeg, the intending farmer can find no Government Land. These are facts. But, one would think that they would fear loss of power at the next election. I can tell you former Conservative Governments did not hesitate on that account.

OUR FORESTS UNDER THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT.

On the contrary, there is a particular reason why our present Government should be continued in the care of the forests of Ontario. Canada, in common with the whole of North America, has been, since the first arrival of the white man upon our shores, far too recklessly engaged in the destruction of the forest. In our cleared lands, the agriculturist suffers from the impaired climate resulting from this cause ; and is likely to suffer much more if the same course be continued, while throughout our still remaining and yet large forests, the axe of the settler, of the lumberman, and the never-ceasing ravages of fire continue to obliterate the wood-land from the face of Ontario. The Ontario Government, much to their credit, have set themselves in earnest to remedy this evil. They have passed an Act, which I am sure you will acknowledge to be an excellent one, providing for the planting of trees along roads, and the dividing lines of farms, and they have secured valuable reports from the best informed sources, concerning the best means of preserving our remaining forests from fire, of retaining sufficient portions of them as lumber forests on the European system. Under that system, proper forestry regulations secure that there shall be a constant succession of timber, and re-establish or retain where economically possible, blocks of forest for climatic purposes. This policy, when carried out, will be of vast advantage to Ontario. It is calculated by those well acquainted with the subject that it will restore the regular succession of summer showers Ontario formerly enjoyed, with, of course, the natural fertility which always accompanies them ; and the Government which has conceived and commenced the work should, by all means, be allowed to carry out so excellent a project.

To show how necessary this action is in view of the loss by fire, let us