

THE GENERAL AWAKENING AS TO FORESTRY.

The *Farmer's Advocate* pertinently animadverts on the sad system of deforestation in full swing all over Canada, and, recalling some of the trite yet unanswerable arguments against such short-sightedness and neglect, suggests as an encouragement to tree culture and wood preservation, the passing of an act, in Ontario, to exempt woodland from taxation. We presume that the preserves of lumber kings or wood producers on a large scale, operating their limits on sane principles, and making abundant returns, would not be comprehended in this paternal legislation. There might be a difficulty in applying the fostering law with exactitude, but anything which may teach the unthinking the value of the wood area of the farm, to the farm itself, must prove of incalculable benefit to the country. The state, too, should regulate as it does in older lands, this mania for clearance where clearance is not desirable; and where, by it, the water sources, health and protection of the community are seriously threatened. Wherever the lands are still vested in the Crown, it is criminal at this stage, and with the evil results of it plainly before us, to permit of greater denudation than has already taken place. There are certainly strong reasons, from the position of the General Government, for retaining the administration of the lands in the new provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, but none appeals to us more strongly than that advanced in favor of a retention and extension of the woodlands of the north. Federally, it would have been impossible to have left Prince Edward Island in the sad position she is in to-day for want of forest. The Local Administrations of the past without a formal bureau of agriculture, apparently without any knowledge of important conditions of, and requisites to sane living, with only a desire to bridge over the present difficulty by the sacrifice of everything within reach did not hesitate to lend itself here to a system of colonization which, as everyone knows, has jeopardized very largely provincial life and prosperity. The Government of the day if ever so well disposed, is practically impotent in the premises.