

THE TIMBER PIRATE.

The article of Senator Edwards, published elsewhere in this issue, covers completely the important subject with which it deals—the destruction of valuable timber as a result of the operations of those who make a pretence of settling lands in timbered areas. The matter is mentioned here not in the hope that we can add anything to what Senator Edwards has said, but with the object of urging every reader of the *Forestry Journal* to use his influence to bring about a better public policy than that which now prevails. Opinions may differ as to the best method of accomplishing this reform, but, if the people insist that the question shall not be shelved until reform has actually been accomplished, our legislators will certainly solve the problem satisfactorily.

The fact that, in certain portions of the Dominion, the fire-ranger system has greatly reduced the forest waste is no reason why efforts to make a clear distinction between the real settler and the timber pirate disguised as a settler should be relaxed. This pretended settlement is a cause of steady loss and a constant menace to the most valuable forests we have. The unavoidable dangers are bad enough; but this worst one of all can be removed if the people of Canada will realize the startling fact that the same men who are robbing them of little patches of timber have endangered and are still by their very presence endangering millions upon millions of public forest property.

The incorporation of the Northern New York Forestry Association last June is evidence of the rapidly growing interest that is being taken in the preservation of the forest and in the replanting of waste lands. The chief object of the organization is to collect and distribute information on these points. The Association will make a special study of the best means of removing the mature timber from the forest without injury to the younger trees and will oppose the policy of those who advocate the leaving large forest areas untouched. Many lumbermen and operators took a prominent part in the organization of the Association.