

With the Forest Engineers.

(Contributed by the Canadian Society of Forest Engineers.)

The Secretary announces the election of the following new members:—

Active.—Whiting Alden, E. H. Finlayson, S. S. Sadler.

Associate.—L. R. Andrews, F. G. Edgar, R. M. Brown, M. A. Grainger, R. G. Lewis, B. R. Morton, J. W. Ottestad, W. L. Scandrett, L. C. Tilt, C. McFayden.

Ottawa Forestry Club.

At a meeting held at the offices of the Forestry Branch on January 21st, the forest engineers of Ottawa formally organized the Ottawa Forestry Club, and elected the following officers:—

President, R. H. Campbell.

Vice-president, Clyde Leavitt.

Sec.-Treas., R. G. Lewis.

The Club is intended to bring the members into closer and better acquaintance with one another, and to aid in the study and discussion of forestry problems. The exact nature of its relation to the Canadian Society of Forest Engineers has not been formally settled, but it will be considered by the members as practically a branch of the Society.

The membership is not to be confined to professional foresters, but a class of members, for whom the name of 'local associates' has been suggested, will be admitted, consisting of those who, though without the regular forestry training, have some direct interest in forestry questions. The office of president of the Club, however, is restricted to members of the Canadian Society of Forest Engineers. Local associates, however, have all the other privileges of the Club, except that of voting on business directly concerning the C. S. F. E.

Meetings will be held at least once a month, from October to April (inclusive), and otherwise as determined on by the committee of management (i.e. the officers of the Club). The meetings will frequently take the form made so familiar by the Canadian Club gatherings, viz., a luncheon followed by a speech, or paper, or the discussion of some topic stated beforehand.

The finances will be managed by an assessment system.

Owing to the crowded state of the *Canadian Forestry Journal's* columns this month, a number of items have had to be held over till the February issue.

THE SPREADING OF THE BLUFFS.

By John Leggat, Foxwarren, Man.

As the writer has lived for a number of years among the bluffs of Northwestern Manitoba, it might be interesting to your readers on the great treeless prairies to hear something of how Nature strives to reforest these districts when prairie fires are held under control. Northwestern Manitoba comprises the Riding Mountains and the country which lies between the mountains and the Assiniboine river to the south. The mountains are low hills of about two or three hundred feet in height and covered with spruce and poplar with numerous small lakes and hay swamps in the valleys. The Little Saskatchewan, Bird Tail and Shell Rivers, which are tributaries of the Assiniboine, take their rise in the mountains and flow southward. This tract of country between the mountains and the Assiniboine river is now all dotted over with poplar bluffs or groves, many of which have grown up since these lands were homesteaded and prairie fires held under better control; especially is this so of the odd numbered sections which were vacant for a number of years.

The reason why we find the poplar and willow spreading over the prairie is that the seed-bud comes on the tree in May, a little ahead of the leaf, and by the end of the month, when the leaf is formed, the seed-buds burst, and the little seeds which are imbedded among the woolly down contained in the seedbuds are carried across the prairie with the breeze like the thistle. In this natural way many districts of the prairie have become reforested and partly wooded. Along the main line of the C.P.R., between Medicine Hat and Calgary, young poplars were observed which had taken root in the moist soil of the railway ditches, the seeds of which would probably be carried from the bush along the banks of the Bow River a few miles to the south.

When we find that nature has provided the seeds of the poplar to spread over the prairie like the thistle, it must be in harmony with Nature for the farmer to reforest these fertile prairies, which no doubt have been denuded of trees and tree growth prevented by the prairie fires which must have swept the country before the advent of the settlers. The fact of coal underlying much of these prairies is an indication, we believe, that the country was at one time