

ARTICLE V.

NOTES ON THE NATURAL HISTORY AND PHYSIOGRAPHY OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

BY W. F. GANONG, PH. D.

23.—THE FORESTRY PROBLEM IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

(Read March 7th ; revised December, 1899.)

The greatest natural source of wealth of New Brunswick lies in her forests. These are steadily deteriorating. The public is uninformed and hence indifferent as to their fate. These three facts constitute a forestry problem of the gravest character, and one vastly important to the future of this province.

Probably there is no other part of the earth's surface that originally bore a nobler forest on a land so richly watered. Some of the most valued timber trees of the northern temperate zone grew in New Brunswick, and completely clothed her hills and valleys from her farthest inland waters all around to the sea. Every part of the province is penetrated by streams which, while swift, are never torrents ; and these by the melting of the abundant snows of winter are made passable for the lumber which thus may be carried cheaply into the many large rivers, and down these to the harbors at their mouths. Immense tracts in the province are admirably adapted for tree growing, and are useless for any other known purpose. Thus has Nature provided in New Brunswick the conditions for a great industry, and thus does she point out our most profitable occupation for the future, when lumbering must be based upon forestry, which consists not in the hunting of trees but in their cultivation.

In the meantime, however, New Brunswick forests are being irretrievably damaged. I do not now refer to defects in forest regulations, systems of cutting, stumpage, etc., for I know nothing about this subject. I have inferred, however, from the numerous newspaper writings of the late Edward Jack, who knew these matters so practi-