

and Shilo, on the Canadian Northern Railway. These nurseries have been put in charge of Mr. J. D. Kirkwood, who is a native of Scotland and had seven years' experience in forestry work in Scotland, England and Ireland. He has had charge of the nurseries for some months, after having spent some time at the Indian Head nurseries of the Forestry Branch in order to familiarize himself with conditions in the prairie provinces.

In the planting operations white spruce and jack pine will be used for the most part, and bull pine, lodgepole pine, black spruce, Norway spruce and Douglas fir will also be experimented with.

A detailed plan of planting is being arranged and further announcement will shortly be made.

It is somewhat hard to predict just what the rate of growth on this reserve is likely to be, as no systematic measurement of the growth has been made. On the sandy soil of the Pines Forest Reserve near Prince Albert, Sask., white spruce, under unfavorable conditions of soil, moisture supply, etc., attains a diameter of 10.2 inches in seventy years and it is entirely safe to assume a growth of that amount for spruce on the Spruce Woods Reserve where conditions for the growth of spruce are favorable as shown by the fact that spruce is practically the only tree that grows on the reserve.

The risk of fire may be minimized (in fact, practically eliminated) almost without expense if the arrangement of the planted area is studied at the beginning, roads provided, etc.

A spruce tree ten inches in diameter can be depended upon to give fifty feet, board measure, of lumber. Calculated at two hundred trees per acre—a low rate—there will thus be in seventy years at a very conservative estimate ten thousand feet of

timber per acre on the reserve. Even now, the timber will sell at \$6 on the stump, so that at the end of seventy years the value of timber per acre on the stump will be \$60, a total for the reserve of \$8,640,000.

Since the above was written it has come to the knowledge of the JOURNAL that efforts are being made by the Militia Department to obtain the western part of the reserve as a camping ground. This is the larger part of the reserve and that which, since the institution of the reserve in 1895, has been held by the Department of the Interior as a forest reserve. It is that, too, in which experiments up to the present have been made. Needless to say, the institution of a camping ground on the territory would bar all further attempts at growing trees thereon. It must be the hope of everyone who has at heart the welfare of forests in Canada that the efforts of the Militia Department may not be successful.

Senator Smith, of Maryland, a lumberman of many years' experience, and a member of the National Forest Reservation Commission, has introduced in Congress a bill providing for the appropriation of \$500,000 annually to acquire lands along the Potomac river adjacent to Washington, for a national park and forestry purposes. The provisions of the bill in regard to the acquirement of the land and other legal phases are similar to those of the Weeks' bill. Five per cent. of the receipts from timber sales are to be paid to the States in which the forest may be located.

Press reports indicate that serious insect devastations are occurring in the spruce forests of Maine, the damage being caused by the sawfly, which destroyed most of the tamarack in Maine in the early 80's. It is reported that the present outbreak is confined to spruce, and for this reason it was not believed that the insect could be the sawfly. The State Department of Agriculture, however, has identified the insect as the sawfly, claiming that the damage is due to slits made in the smaller twigs by the female insect in preparing a place to deposit her eggs.