

whereas the natural increase should have been more than equal to the reasonable consumption of timber for our present limited population.

While the great destruction of forest wealth by fire is a matter of much regret, it is not yet too late to make strenuous efforts to preserve what remains, and every action on the part of the government in this direction will be welcomed. There is no reason why Canada should not maintain for all time, large forest areas, even in the great prairie regions of the west. Lands which are unfit for agriculture after being cleared, will nevertheless produce valuable growths of timber. Where lands are very rough or broken, or otherwise unsuited for agriculture, it would probably be the best policy to set apart such districts as forest reserves. Under proper restrictions as to the cutting of timber and protection from fire, these forest reserves could be maintained permanently.

The question of protecting some of our wild animals from extermination could also be considered in connection with the forest reserves, by making special regulations for the protection of wild animals in such reserves.

TRADING STAMPS.

The trading stamp did not last long in Vancouver. Our letter from Vancouver last week explained why and how the arrangement was come to to drop the use of trading stamps. It was found that in lines such as groceries, where the margin of profit is so small as to render it barely possible to carry on business profitably, the trading stamp proved virtually the last straw to break the camel's back. Wisely the business men came to the conclusion, before it was too late, to discontinue the use of the stamps. Some of the retail dealers were unable to meet their paper, and the cause was attributed to trading stamps. The wholesalers took up the matter, called a meeting of wholesale and retail dealers to discuss the question, with the result that an agreement was made to give up the use of trading stamps.

The Commercial does not oppose the giving of discounts for cash, under reasonable conditions. We do say, however, that there is a much more businesslike way of giving discounts than by the use of trading stamps. The trading stamp system is wrong in principle and it is unfair both to the customer and the dealer. If the consumer who pays cash is entitled to a discount at all he is entitled to the full amount of the discount. Under the trading stamp system, a third party steps in between the merchant and his customer and takes a share of the profit arising from the transaction. This is so manifestly wrong in prin-

ciple, that it is a wonder merchants will consider the use of trading stamps at all, much less encourage their use.

PROPOSED NEW GRAIN ROUTE.

A proposal is now out to improve French river, between Lake Nipissing and Georgian Bay, so as to render it navigable. The lake is already a navigable body of water. By the establishment of elevators at North Bay, a point at the northeasterly end of the lake, touched by the Canadian Pacific Railway main line, it is believed that the route would become a valuable one for the grain trade. It would make a more direct and shorter rail haul to Montreal than via Georgian Bay ports. The question of opening a water route from Georgian Bay to Montreal, via French river, Lake

Nipissing, through the mail. The object in view is the improvement of the character and quality of the grain grown in Canada, an effort widely appreciated, and the choice of varieties to be sent out will be confined to those which have been found to succeed well at the experimental farms.

These samples will be sent only to those who apply personally. Lists of names from societies or individuals cannot be considered. Only one sample of one sort can be sent to each applicant, hence if an individual receives a sample of oats he cannot also receive one of wheat or barley. Applications should be addressed to the Director of Experimental Farms, Ottawa, and may be sent any time before the 15th of March, after which date the lists will be closed, so that the samples asked for may all be sent out in good time for sowing. Parties writing will please mention the sort of grain they would prefer and should the available stock of the variety named be exhausted, some other good sort will be sent in its place. Letters may be sent



Proposed Water Route Between Georgian Bay and Montreal, via French and Ottawa Rivers and Lake Nipissing.

Nipissing and the Ottawa river, has been before the people for years, and it was recently announced that British capitalists had become interested in the proposal and would send experts at once to examine the route. The improvement of French river, so as to open the route as far as North Bay, would therefore possibly be only the first step toward opening a new water route through to Montreal.

Seed Grain Samples.

Under instructions of the hon. minister of agriculture another distribution of sample packages of the best and most productive sorts of cereals, etc., is now being made from the Central Experimental farm, Ottawa. The distribution will consist as heretofore of samples of oats, spring wheat, barley, field peas, Indian corn and potatoes. Each sample will weigh 3 pounds. The quality of the seed will be of the best, the varieties true to name and the packages will be sent free to ap-

to the Experimental Farm free of postage.

The Winnipeg Free Press says: "There is much valuable land in the vicinity of Winnipeg to which access in bad weather is practically impossible owing to the disgraceful condition of the roads. For this reason farming lands can be obtained at a nominal figure a few miles out of the city. If good roads could be secured they would be a boon to the city and to the adjacent municipalities."

Some of the large daily papers of New York have been placing new contracts for their supply of paper for this year. It is stated that they have been obliged to pay much higher prices than heretofore, the figures ranging from 21-2 to 31-2c according to grade. The manager of the Canada Paper Company is authority for the statement that prices have advanced in Canada about 1-2 to 1c per pound for book grades and from 1-10 to 1-2c for news grades.

Many a man would have a better wife if he wasn't such a poor husband.