

II.—ON LANDS OWNED BY THE STATE.

The Canadian provinces, with the exception of Nova Scotia, have adopted the only safe policy of retaining in fee simple the ownership of the non-agricultural lands for the purposes of wood production.

That this object may be successfully accomplished, it is essential that the lands be kept under a crop of trees by either natural or artificial means. It is quite beyond the scope of this paper to discuss methods of reforestation, but a few general principles will be briefly mentioned, that the influence of taxes on the management and reproduction of the forest may be clearly seen.

The reforestation of non-agricultural lands on a large scale presents many practical difficulties which are not met with, or met with only in a modified form, in restoring woodlots and shelter belts in an agricultural district. The greatest bar to the replanting of denuded or burned areas of non-agricultural lands, is the danger of subsequent destruction of the plantation by fire. This is practically eliminated in farming sections where over-clearance has been practised. The planted woodlot has a further advantage over plantations on wild lands for commercial purposes, (1) in the amount of expenditure necessary in making the plantation, it being possible on farms to do the work at odd times in early spring at a minimum of cost; (2) in the practicability of greatly increasing the financial returns of the plantation by giving it greater care as it develops, such as the removal of inferior trees to favor the development of the better, thinning, etc. Such attentions are of course wholly out of the question on wild lands where there is no market for the inferior materials which would be removed in these "improvement cuttings"; (3) in the nearness to market, enabling the farmer to dispose of the better grades at much better advantage—the cost of transportation being saved—and to utilize much material profitably which is ordinarily waste in the lumber woods; and (4) in the fact that the farm woodlands, if rightly placed, may have a very great value in favorably influencing the local climate and thereby increasing the profit of farming the neighboring cleared lands, and in enhancing the beauty and value of the farm property.

Commercial tree planting must for the present be very largely limited to agricultural districts. As soon as the fire problem is satisfactorily solved, it will undoubtedly be extended to large areas of wild lands which have been devastated by unwise lumbering and by fire to such an extent that seed trees of the valuable species are not present, thus precluding the hope of satisfactory natural recovery. Wherever the forest still remains, however, a *natural regeneration of the most valuable species* by