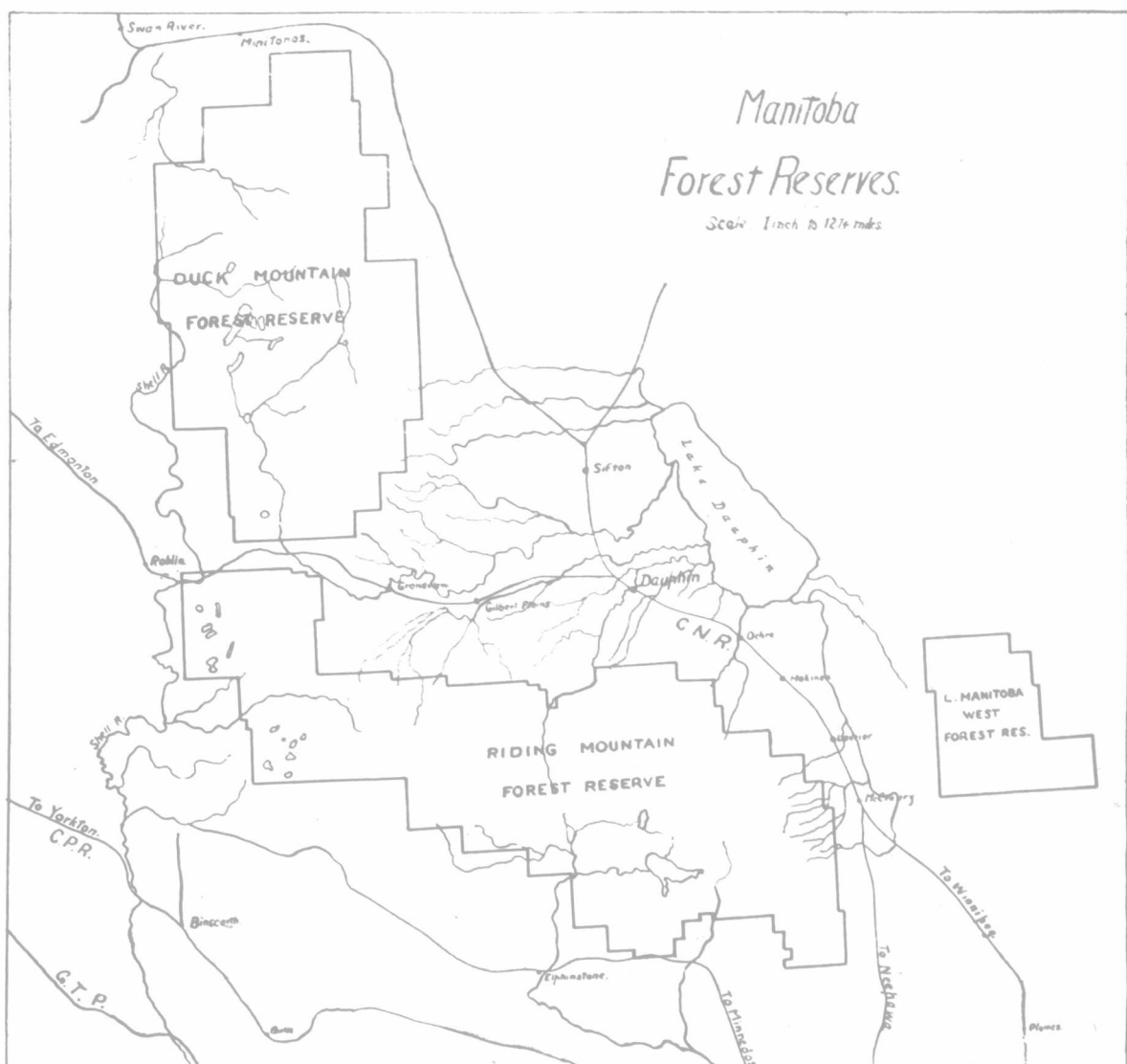


water from a six foot snow fall came down the rivers in the spring as suddenly as it does where melted quickly in denuded regions, the swift rivers would cut and wash away the soft crumbling banks and work wholesale destruction to farms, bridges, roads and towns. Following the flood the rivers would dwindle down to mere streams. In the long dry summers of the prairie when fresh water is a blessing to man and beast, most of the rivers would be dry were it not for the reservoirs in the mountains. It is this system of natural irrigation which has made the country so successful agriculturally and has spared the settlers the enormous expense necessary for irrigation works in the treeless Western States.

The prime object of establishing the reserves was not for the water however. The maintenance of a permanent timber supply is of paramount importance. The act creating the reserves states that "all Dominion lands within the reserves are hereby withdrawn from settlement, sale, or occupancy." This does not mean that they are withheld from the use of the individual, but they are held by the nation in trust for the people, that they shall be so used by the citizens as to produce the greatest benefit to the greatest number, and be preserved in full value for all time to come. This can best be achieved on the prairie by producing wood for domestic use. All the prairie surrounding the reserves will sooner or later be devoted to agriculture. A greater part of it now bears no trees; that part of it which was forested is very rapidly being cleared to make room for wheat. The only source of timber for building, fencing and fuel will then be the forest reserves. Should they be thrown open for settlement, a few years of clearing, a few seasons of fire would wipe out all the timber and the whole community would suffer.

The case of New York State might be quoted here. When the State was first settling, an attempt was made to get all the timber into the hands of private parties, irrespective of its use. The Adirondack Mountains were sold, timber and land, for a few cents per acre. For years attempts were made to farm but all ended in hopeless failure or starvation. The timber was indiscriminately burned and cut off and to-day the State is spending \$300,000 per year to buy back and plant that very land.

In Manitoba it will not be necessary to resort to such expensive measures either for the protection of farming land and manufacturing interests from floods or to maintain a water supply.



So long as spruce, tamarack, poplar, birch, jackpine and balsam may be found in merchantable quantities on these reserves there is no reason why the residents of Northwestern Manitoba should depend upon shipments of expensive lumber from the west for general supply. Such a source should only be depended upon for certain products, shingles, wood for inside finish and special construction. When settlement has become denser in British Columbia, when the demands upon the western forests are increased by a large home market, a greater prairie need and a vastly increased southern and Trans-

represented by such towns as Dauphin, Minitonas, Gilbert Plains, Grandview, Roblin and McCreary to which wood may be teamed.

The same bill which established the reserves provided that they constitute game preserves. On the settled prairie there is but little protection for game. The buffalo disappeared, chickens are fast following, ducks decrease as settlement increases and with the removal of the woods no game would remain. These reserves, however, still shelter the moose and elk driven in from the surrounding country and at present there can be no better place in the northwest to hunt them, than the Riding and Duck Mountains. Bear, deer and beaver are also represented, together with ducks and partridge. Nor is it a country where, by reason of the expense entailed, hunting is limited to wealthy sports. Such hunters may enjoy it, but any farmer of northern Manitoba who has a few days to spare can easily reach the hunting grounds and no guides will be necessary to show him the sport.

After settlement has become a little older, where successive crops of wheat have made vacations necessary and possible, the residents of the province in looking for camping places to spend a few holidays will choose the reserves. There amongst the spruce and jackpine, on the numerous lakes they can enjoy ideal summer holidays, boating and fishing. Moose Mountain, Turtle Mountain, Killarney Lake are thus visited by hundreds every summer, further south and west. And they have not half the charms, nor are they so accessible to a large number as Lake Andy, Clear Lake, Shoal Lake and others in Riding and Duck mountains. These latter are occasionally visited by campers and have been found to afford splendid fishing, boating and bathing.

Thus it can be shown that the Dominion forests, in being set aside as Reserves, are not reserved from use, but are preserved from destruction, so that they may be of greatest permanent value by protecting watersheds, producing timber and providing recreation for a surrounding, densely settled community.



WHITE SPRUCE BELT ON CLEAR LAKE, RIDING MOUNTAINS, MAN.

Investigations by the Dominion Department of Forestry have shown that if fire is kept out enough timber will be produced annually in the two reserves to supply all the needs of the surrounding country. There are at present quite large areas of mature timber, which require protection to prevent its waste. There are also large areas varying in age from mere seedlings to trees nearly grown, so that if each year mature timber only is removed, the reserves will be maintained in a state of unimpaired efficiency. Fortunately the principal species mature from 50-90 years, so that poplar which would now be classed as "scrub," will produce saw material in less than half a century.

Pacific trade, it will then be unfortunate if the farmers of Manitoba have no other lumber supply on which to depend.

Still more important is the fuel supply. It is possible to pay freight rates a long distance on timber for structural purposes but fuel must be convenient and cheap. Past seasons have shown the risk of depending upon railroads to provide fuel for a whole province. Fortunately different lines of railroad, surrounding and closely paralleling the boundaries of the reserves, afford an easy means of shipping fuel, either south to the more thickly settled districts or west to the prairie. There is also a large tributary area,