

CHAP. I.

No Department of the Provincial Government has to solve such a variety and number of difficult and delicate questions of administration as the Crown Lands Department. It is the department which contributes the largest revenue to the Province, and consequently requires constant care and attention to protect the public treasury from loss, the public property from depredation and destruction.

Each successive government and parliament has devoted time and ability to questions concerning forest production and the colon. Much eloquence has been devoted to the subject. It was the practice formerly on the item of "Colonization Roads" for every member who had rural constituents to make his sessional speech upon this question. There was a Hansard then. Since official reporting of speeches has ceased the "colon" day has vanished. Any person familiar with the trials of the settler, who clears a farm out of the forest and devotes a lifetime to the providing a comfortable home for his wife and children, will respect the courage and indomitable pluck of the man who wields the axe. The prairie farm presents no such difficulties as does the forest clearing. It is of the greatest consequence therefore that the settler whose intention establish for himself a home should be encouraged, and difficulties in his path removed as much as possible.

A Forest Reserve should be established as soon as possible. The Laurentian chain of mountains or hills intersected by numerous rivers and dotted over with beautiful lakes seem to have been created for the especial growth of trees. There is an abundance of hills which are for the most part rocky and covered with a light depth of soil. There are few farms in the hill district which are not intersected by hills, which when cleared