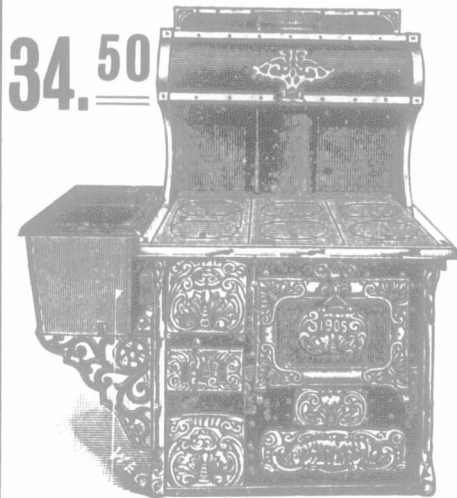


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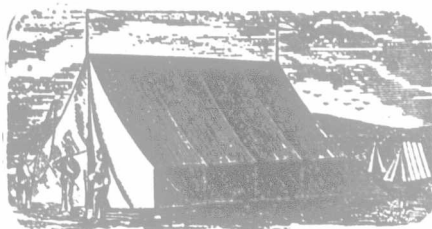
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THE [MANAGEMENT OF] [FOREST] RESERVES.

Continued from page 1574

On several of the reserves where the green timber is limited and it is necessary to preserve seed trees, as in the spruce woods, Turtle Mountains and Cooning Lake Reserves, the cutting of green wood is prohibited.

The value of these reserves to the surrounding agricultural settlement in the Prairie Provinces can hardly be over-estimated and every winter the farmers come from fifty and sometimes seventy miles to secure supplies of fuel, fence and building material from these patches of timber, which have been protected from the fires, which have cleared the prairie.

The cutting done by permit holders will be directed by the officer in charge to restricted cutting areas, in order that the removal may be systematically conducted and the utmost care will be exercised to have the cutting done so that another crop will follow, and that the fullest utilization will be made of the timber cut. Infractions of the regulations are to be punished by cancellation of all rights to future permits, a charge of double dues on the wood cut and such other punishment as may be inflicted by the courts for trespass or timber stealing. For the purpose of protecting the reserves each of the forest rangers is given the powers of a Justice of the Peace within his district.

On the other reserves which contain merchantable timber in sufficient quantities to make more extensive lumbering operations possible, a different policy will have to be adopted. It is I think patent to everyone that the present system of selling limits on the bonus system discourages rather than encourages the perpetuation of the forests, and that on these reserves a more conservative policy should be adopted.

It is directly contrary to principles of good forestry to prevent the harvesting of mature forest crops, but owing to the necessity in this country of depending almost entirely on natural reproduction, care and skill is required in removing the mature timber in such a way that reproduction will take place, and therefore the timber should be sold in such a way that a premium would not be placed on overcutting, and yet that the government shall receive a fair compensation for its timber. From the standpoint of a forester it is advisable that the government either conduct the lumbering itself or sell the timber on a stumpage basis and maintain close supervision of the cutting.

In the first place no timber should be sold before it is examined by the forester in charge and the silvicultural conditions found to make the cutting advisable. The timber should be measured and in some cases marked for cutting, and then placed on the market for public competition, sufficient time being allowed for all interested to examine the tract before bidding. Regulations regarding the kind and size of timber to be cut, disposal and debris, height of stumps, etc., should be stipulated in every sale in order that there may be no misunderstanding afterwards.

Owing to the long time element in producing forest crops it is hardly practicable for private individuals or corporations to carry on the highest type of forestry, but the Government whose duty it is to provide for the welfare of succeeding generations, can and should be the forester and allow the lumbermen to harvest the crop when ripe. It is necessary though that the co-operation of the lumberman be secured or the efforts of the forester will be futile.

There is every reason to expect the support of the lumbermen of Canada, since it is they, who through this Association and individually have been responsible for practically all the advance made in forestry of late years in Canada.

The setting aside of the forest reserves is very largely due to the efforts of this Association through the recent Forestry Convention in Ottawa, and whether the hopes of the promoters are to be fulfilled or not will depend on the support now afforded the Forestry Branch in its administration.

SURVEY WORK

The work conducted by the Forestry

Branch on the reserves, has so far been confined to making forest surveys of the Turtle Mountain, Moose Mountain and the Riding Mountain Reserves in Manitoba. In the forest surveys we have made a rough topographical examination in order to be able to locate trails and means of guarding and exploiting the timber and have measured the mature timber and the extent of the reproduction. We have also measured the rate of growth of the various species in order to determine the yield that may be expected and the age at which it matures. It is expected to carry on similar investigations on the other reserves and to secure data on all the important species of Canadian forest trees. The results of this work will be of great value not only to the scientific forester, but to the lumberman in enabling him to decide the size at which it is most profitable for him to cut in case he expects to hold his limits for future cutting.

In the Spruce Woods Reserve in Manitoba, we have planted 40,000 Scotch pine seedlings with most gratifying results and we hope to extend this work where necessary on other reserves.

AREA RESERVED.

As stated before the area of land now set aside for forest purposes on Dominion lands, is five and a half million acres. Mr. Stewart who is perhaps the best informed man on this subject, estimates that the timberland owned by the Dominion is about 500,000,000 acres, and the reserves therefore form about 1.1 per cent, or that area, and as a large part of the land reserved can never be expected to produce much besides fuel, it can readily be seen that in order to have any appreciable effect towards perpetuating the forest wealth of Canada, the reserves must be greatly increased.

Large as is the timber land under the Dominion Government, the provinces control perhaps our most valuable forests and the duty of forest conservation rests as forcibly upon them. Ontario has already set aside 11,500,000 acres. Quebec 3,289,600 acres and New Brunswick is preparing to reserve a large tract. It would seem that British Columbia, which now depends and may always depend largely on her forests for her revenue, should inaugurate a conservative forest policy and set aside her non-agricultural lands permanently for the purpose of timber production. The \$500,000 appropriated this year for the forest protection is an infinitesimal amount compared with the value of the interests affected.

The forests of British Columbia are unrivalled in any other part of the globe and if through lack of protection from fire and destructive lumbering they are removed from these mountains not only will the revenues from this source cease, but the spring floods will rush down and destroy the fertile agricultural valleys, and in the summer the streams which now afford spawning grounds for the salmon, which mean so much to British Columbia, will be dry canyons. Even the mines cannot be operated without large supplies of timber, and the future of this land which has been so bountifully supplied with natural resources, and which is looked upon as the chief source for the future of timber, minerals and fish for the rest of the Dominion, will be blighted.

It is therefore of the utmost importance that the people of British Columbia come to realize the importance of their forests and adopt measures before too late to perpetuate this great asset and I may say that any support or co-operation which the Forestry Branch is able to give in this direction, will be gladly extended.

RESOLUTION OF THE FORESTRY CONTENTION, VANCOUVER, B.C.

Resolved: That this meeting of the Canadian Forestry Association desires to re-affirm the resolution passed at the Canadian Forestry Convention held at Ottawa in January last, regarding the reservation of the forests required for the protection of streams furnishing a supply of water for irrigation and for the prevention of destruction by floods, and to urge that speedy action be taken in the direction indicated.