

FORESTRY.

Sir,—Perhaps you will allow me the use of your widely circulated journal on a topic not uninteresting to many who view with concern the too complete deforesting of older settled Ontario.

At present, according to much correspondence I receive on the subject, very many of our farms have no forest left, while a great number have but few acres.

In many neighbourhoods the average is not more than 10 acres of bush to the 100, and while of course other sections have much more the axe is ever at work, and the small average first mentioned will probably soon be that of a very large portion of our country indeed.

One farmer is apt to think his bush will last his time, another thinks he will clear his and buy wood of his neighbours, a third that he will cut his and use coal.

Very many admit that it is a pity the woods are going so fast, but think that unless some general effort were being made to preserve their own individual assistance can effect little, so that they themselves might as well chop down nearly their last ten acres which is in wood and might grow wheat.

A letter writer in your columns lately was kind enough to desire an article on political economy from my "ready and facile pen," instead of a long dissertation on trees, which he thought of lesser consequence.

I must decline his request and disagree with his estimate. I get half-a-dozen such long dissertations by post every morning, and I am sure he takes this opportunity to make me his correspondent for the next week and to trouble me later.

There are notes of warning in these letters it might be well to re-echo. Some farmers who, out of wood, are using coal, find the amount bill greater and the comfort less than they anticipated.

Some complain that over-clearing now exposes them to windy frosts, severe to enter and consumptive of fodder, blowing the snowy covering of the winter wheat from the centre to the sides of the field, freezing out some portions of the crop and drenching others, rendering all human life less comfortable, and that of the delinquent traveller peculiarly so.

Many, too, state that in consequence of the same operation the living springs on the farms—once their greatest comfort and satisfaction—are fast drying up.

a considerable sum, to preserve this portion properly, and yet he could by no means grumble, for he would actually have received the money. He would in fact have accepted a certain amount on condition that he should do himself good with it.

This would, of course, slightly reduce the amount of assessable property in each township, but nobody would, at this day, object; in fact everyone who understands the matter would be well pleased if the Government had reserved some timber land in each township for this very purpose.

These reservations would answer another purpose, which would please many who remember former Ontario, who like life in a landscape, and do not care to see the country becoming destitute of every unimproved thing, game, and many birds beneficial to the farmer would live there, a thing which, in the absence of undergrowth, but few of them can do.

I would be much obliged if any persons throughout the country would write me their views concerning the suggestion, or any changes they think might profitably be made in it, and I would be much gratified to see the subject discussed at the various county councils, as I intend shortly to take the liberty of asking the various county authorities their opinions in the matter.

R. W. PHIPPS, 233 Richmond-st., West, Toronto, Jan. 3, '84.

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The billfied begged his principal to allow him to put over the sale on the plea that the case was one of peculiar hardship, deserving the kindest consideration.

The goods were bought in by a kind hearted citizen, and nothing was removed. The "shylock" a merchant, it is said, is urging his own creditors to give an extension of time for the payment of his debts.

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