

ing has yet been done in the interest of forest tree culture in the North-West, and the Forestry Commissioner in his Report* very earnestly points out the importance of immediate attention being given to this question, not only by the Dominion, but by the Provincial Governments, particularly those of Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick, in which Provinces, he says, the destruction of our forests by fire and by the axe goes on with unabated fury, and with painful disregard of the inevitable consequences in the near future.

757. On 3rd April, 1889, judgment was given by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, declaring that the right to administer the minerals within the Railway Belt in British Columbia was vested in the Government of that Province. In order to dispose of the anomalous condition of affairs that consequently arose, viz., that the jurisdiction over the lands was vested in the Dominion Government, and the right to administer the minerals in that of the Province, the following arrangement, ratified by Order in Council of 28th February, 1890, was agreed upon between the two Governments :

Land regulations,
Railway
Belt, B. C.

No disposition of lands containing minerals (except coal lands) shall be made by the Dominion Government other than by patent in fee simple, thereby bringing the minerals at once under the administration of the Provincial mining laws.

All lands containing minerals (except coal lands and Indian reserves), offered for sale by the Dominion Government, shall be open for purchase by the Provincial Government at the price of \$5 per acre.

Any lands sought to be acquired by the Provincial Government under the last clause, shall be set apart from alienation by the Dominion, upon the Provincial Government making a

* Report of the Department of the Interior, 1889, Part VI.