

802. Numerous improvements were made during the year in the Rocky Mountains Park, principally in opening out new roads and avenues and in improving those already made, and the total amount expended was \$11,498. There was a complete absence of the heavy forest fires, both in the Park itself and in the neighbouring country, which did so much damage the year before, and no doubt helped to keep visitors away, for there was an increase of over 500 in the number of persons registering at the Cave and Basin, the total having been 3,681 as compared with 3,156 in 1889. Of the number registering in 1890, 2,261 were Canadians and 1,007 from the United States.

803. An important exploration to James' Bay, *via* the Ottawa River and connecting waters, was made during the summer of 1890, by Mr. Wm. Ogilvie, D.L.S. The character of the greater part of the country through which he passed was unfavourable for any great agricultural development, while the timber was small, suitable only for local consumption and little or no trace was found of minerals of economic value.

804. Beyond some experiments on a comparatively small scale at the Experimental Farms at Indian Head and Brandon, nothing has yet been done in the interest of forest tree culture in the North-West, and too much stress cannot be laid on 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 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.

805. 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