

started years ago. The graduates of forest schools will open out useful work in directions that at present are not thought about. The case for forestry is so good that the more it is talked about the more progress is going to be made.

But while progress is being made on the popular side foundation work must not be overlooked. The whole art is so new on this continent that however sure conservationists are of the necessity and profit of forestry, the man in the street has yet to be convinced. People would be aghast if told by responsible men that in so many years agriculture or manufacturing would come to a stop, but the public either does not believe the forests will disappear in the periods named for different areas, or it does not realize the economic results of that disappearance.

As to how close we are to the time when our virgin forests will be depleted, while there are differences in details there is a general agreement that it will not be long. For the United States the National Conservation Commission put it at thirty years from 1907 and subsequent investigation has not materially altered their conclusion. In Canada some industries are largely existing on second growth timber, while industries in our old hardwood belt are importing five times as much hardwood as we produce. It takes from sixty to one hundred years to grow a timber tree. If our virgin timber is going to disappear in less than half a century then, even if we start reforesting now, there is going to be a gap between the old and the new. And we have not started reforesting either by natural regeneration or by planting.

But even more serious than this is the fact that the thing we say we believe we ought to do we are not undertaking as if we meant it. Everybody is agreed there should be

fire protection, that our existing supplies should be harvested without waste, and that cut over areas that are absolute forest land should be allowed to grow up again into timber, even if we do not go the length of seeding or planting.

One of the most vital things required to get efficiency in carrying out work, all agree to be necessary, is the extension of civil service reform to the outside services federal and provincial. The *Ottawa Citizen* dealing with this matter says:—

The position of the outside government servant, not appointed by the Civil Service Commission, is demoralizing and humiliating to a degree. No matter how efficient the outside government servant may be, merit is not taken into consideration when the question of promotion comes under review. The permanent officials at headquarters are not allowed to appoint, dismiss or promote an outside servant without the approval of the political hierarchy.

The newspaper is here discussing the customs service but the argument applies with even more force to the forest services because the men are miles away from the eye of superiors and from the restraining and correcting force of public notice and public opinion. Urging the extension of civil service regulations to the outside services is not as pleasant and popular work as opening forestry schools or securing the appointment of state or provincial foresters but it appears to be the most necessary work now before the Canadian Forestry Association and indeed before the Canadian people. There is no reason to doubt the intention of the Dominion Government, to extend civil service reform to the outside services but the pressure against this is tremendous on the part of party workers and it is only fair to the Government and to governments generally that the friends of forest conservation should throw their weight on the scales that the balance may be in favor of reform.