

A CANADIAN FOREST POLICY.

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When an individual of a nation is urged to undertake any new enterprise the advocate must be prepared to show that it is not only practicable and desirable, but that it is a business proposition, or in other words, that it will pay. That there are sentimental considerations urging better care of the forests is undeniable. That they should have weight is equally indisputable. But forestry is absolutely independent of such, its appeal to-day is as a business proposition to business men, and more especially as a business proposition to statesmen, for the whole history of forests and forestry from the time of ancient Babylon to the present has been a demonstration of the fact that the State is the best, if not the only good forester.

Personally, I think it is beyond doubt that the development of a rational, and therefore practical and business-like, forest policy by the Canadian Provinces and the Federal Government will have a greater influence on the prosperity and happiness of our country half a century hence than the solution of any other problem which is within the power of our generation to solve.

There are at least three reasons of paramount importance why Canadian forests should be managed with a view to the production of wood crops in perpetuity. These reasons have already been repeatedly discussed at the different sessions of the Convention. Permit me to repeat them briefly by way of emphasis and as a foundation on which to base some recommendations for a national forest policy.

For the Permanence of Lumbering Industries.

1. The necessity of a *permanent* supply of logs for the maintenance of our great and growing lumbering and other wood-working industries.

The products of these industries are absolutely essential for the future of our production, our transportation, and our manufactures. Aside, indeed, from the character of its people there is nothing which contributes so greatly to the prosperity and happiness of a people than an abundant supply of wood at reasonable prices. Wood forms the very corner-stone of modern