

Should we conclude from this that replanting has to be greatly encouraged in the province of Quebec? I do not think so. Let the government, some wealthy communities and even private companies try these experiments, it is all very well. But that private individuals try the same thing without very special reasons, for the sole purpose of acquiring a forest for exploitation, we are of opinion would be a very hazardous enterprise.

As a general conclusion to be drawn from these too long considerations, we can say that it is of the utmost interest for all Canadians to acquire sound ideas of the forests, of their value, of the part they play in the general economy of public wealth, and, consequently, of the jealous care with which it is expedient to preserve and improve them. All this I should call, a national forestry education.

We are already on the right path; we have done something, but there is still much more to be done. One duty is to hasten now and not wait until our forests have been destroyed or seriously harmed. It is far better to spend now judiciously a few thousand dollars each year, in order to save our capital, than to be obliged to spend a few more later, if it became a necessity of repairing losses, sometimes irreparable.

France and Germany would not be obliged to spend millions in reforesting their mountains and dunes if they had preserved the forests which sheltered them in former years, and which a short-sighted policy, coupled with favouritism, allowed to be destroyed at the end of the eighteenth century.

We should have well equipped technical schools; but at the same time we must awake the public spirit. This will prove a powerful lever to help us to attain surely the end towards which we are all aiming, the preservation and increase in value of our forests, this all-important national wealth.